

"Be Prepared!"

by Wayne Goff

If I asked you to identify the organization whose motto is "*Be Prepared!*" then I would expect you to answer "**The Boy Scouts.**" Certainly this a true statement and one well-publicized by this popular organization. But you and I, as Christians, should also recognize this as the **eternal motto** of every Christian: "**Be Prepared!**"

John the Baptist ***prepared*** the way for the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, by preaching repentance and the coming Kingdom, Matt. 3:1-3; Lk. 1:17, 76.

We regularly teach that *heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people!* The concept is found in John 14:2-3 where Jesus said that He would go away to heaven to prepare a place for His people.

The entire Gospel message is a ***Divinely-prepared*** system for those who those who love God, 1 Cor. 2:9-10.

While the word "*prepare*" does not appear in Romans 13, the apostle Paul tells Christians how to conduct themselves in life so that they will be ready, or prepared for the end of time. We are to (1) realize that our salvation is nearer than when we first believed, v. 11; (2) cast off works of darkness, and put on instead the armor of light, v. 12; (3) walk properly as in the day, v. 13; and (4) put on the Lord Jesus Christ so that we will make no provision for the lusts of the flesh. In doing these things, Christians are always ***prepared*** for the Lord's return.

The opposite of "*prepared*" is "*unprepared.*" The world will be so unprepared for the Lord's second coming, that it will come upon them "*as a thief in the night*" (1 Thess. 5:2). When the world cries "*peace and safety!*" sudden destruction will come upon them (1 Thess. 5:3). The world will not escape its own destruction! But Paul says that Christians "are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief" (1 Thess. 5:4). In other words, Christians are spiritually awake, ***prepared*** and ready for that Day! So our eternal motto is: **BE PREPARED!!**

264501