

“Prepare to Meet Thy God”

- I. Introduction:
 - a. (Amos 4:11, 12) “I have overthrown some of you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, **prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.**”
 - i. Used as an image of meeting God on the battlefield
 - ii. Speaking of Israel because of their rebellion – God Said he would do to them what he did to Sodom and Gomorrah
 - b. Can use phrase to reference our preparedness to meeting God when we die.
 - i. Are we prepared to meet God and if not what do we need to do?
- II. The Ten Virgins (Matt 25:1-13)
 - a. Kingdom of Heaven – The Church
 - i. Descriptive title to the church – Describes it’s government
 - a. Christ is the King
 - b. Of heaven – places this kingdom above all others
 - 2. Household of God – Describes it’s family feature
 - ii. (Matt 16:18-19) “... I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of Heaven.”
 - 1. Speaking of the same institution - Church
 - b. This was speaking of those in the Church – all ten were representative to those in the kingdom of heaven
 - c. Not distinguished as good or bad – wise and foolish
 - i. Can be good and be lost
 - ii. The foolish Virgins were still virgins – pure
 - 1. Just because someone is good doesn’t make them eligible for heaven – must be prepared and do those things that God has commanded
 - d. Can’t be prepared by someone else
 - i. (Vs. 8-9) They were reminded the proper way of gaining oil
 - ii. They no doubt saw the foolishness of their actions when they saw the door was shut.
 - e. (Vs. 13) “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.”
 - i. Need to be prepared – to love his appearing
 - ii. (Heb 9:28) “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”
 - 1. Look for him – wise virgins – they were prepared for him
 - 2. Foolish virgins were claiming to be in the kingdom but weren’t doing the things that God wants from us.

iii. (II Tim 4:8) “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

1. Love his Appearing are the ones that will receive the crown of righteousness – Those that are prepared and are his

III. To be Prepared you must be a Child of God?

a. (Gal 3:24-29) “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. **For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.** For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have **put on Christ**. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

i. Justification by faith comes by obedience to God

ii. (Matt 7:21) “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

1. Will – God’s intention: Must do the intention of God

2. God’s will – Know God’s will by His revealed word

a. (Heb 1:1-2) “God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”

i. Last days – Gospel Dispensation

1. Speaks to us by his Son

b. (Heb 2:3-4) “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

i. God’s will was revealed first by his Son, then by those that heard him. – Proof was in the miracles that God witness with.

c. We know God’s Intention by His Word

3. One body – One church, One Faith (Eph 4:4) “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

a. Not much room for denominations – One body

b. Not much room for Doctrinal tolerance – One Faith

- i. (Jude 3) “Earnestly contend for THE FAITH”
 - c. Must be a member of that One Body, How?
 - i. (Acts 2:47) “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
 - iii. How can one be saved?
 - 1. Jesus says:
 - a. (Mark 16:15-16)
 - i. 1+1=2
 - ii. And – Copulative Conjunction
 - iii. Faith and Baptism is needed for salvation – That is an obedient faith – Like those in the book of Acts
 - 1. Believed in Christ and Done something about it
 - b. (John 3:3) “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 - i. How can we be born again?
 - 1. (John 3:5) “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
 - a. Spiritual Birth
 - b. Two Agents: Mother – Water, Spirit – Father
 - c. Christ said we must be born of these two agents.
 - d. Spirit plants the seed, come up from the water,
 - 2. Paul says:
 - a. (Rom 6:3-4) “Know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
 - b. Are You a Child of God, and Prepared to Meet God?
- IV. To be prepared you must be Faithful until death?
 - a. (Rev 2:10) “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
 - i. How can we be faithful unto death?
 - 1. (II Pet 1:5-9)
 - a. If we do these things we shall never fall
 - ii. Virtue
 - 1. Moral Duties – (James 1:27) “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and

widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

- iii. Knowledge – Spiritual growth in studying the word of God
 - 1. (II Tim 2:15) “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
 - a. Only way we can know the will of God is to study
 - b. Only way we can grow stronger in the Faith – (Rom 10:17)
 - iv. Temperance – Self-Control – Christians must be able to control them selves
 - 1. (James 4:7) “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
 - v. Godliness – Spirit of Reverence – Building on Sound Doctrine
 - 1. Having good conversation
 - a. An upright and good living
 - 2. (I Tim 4:7-8) “But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”
 - a. Strive to be more like Christ – he’s our example
 - vi. Brotherly Kindness – Love for our fellow brothers and sisters
 - 1. (Rom 12:10) “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring on another.”
 - a. Speaking of those in the Church
 - i. If one is hurt we must comfort
 - ii. If one is hungry we must feed them
 - iii. If one is in need we must help them
 - iv. If one sins we must reprove them and help them
 - 2. Must be kind to all mankind
 - a. (Matt 5:43-44) “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”
 - vii. Charity – From the Greek word “agape” – Divine Love
 - 1. We must grow in the love that God has for us!
 - 2. If we love – then we’ll show them the truth
 - a. (Mark 16:15,16) – to all Christians
 - b. Do we teach those around us the truth?
 - viii. If we grow in these things then we shall never fall (II Pet 1:10)
- b. Are we prepared to meet God?

V. Conclusion

- a. To be prepared we must obey the Gospel

- i. Faith – (Heb 11:6) “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
 - 1. Must Believe in His Son that God sent for us to die
 - a. (John 3:16)
 - 2. Must believe in his revelation and obey it
 - a. (Matt 7:21) “Not every one that saith...”
 - ii. Repent – (Luke 13:3) “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish.”
 - 1. Repent – turn away from sin and turn to God
 - 2. (Acts 2:38)
 - iii. Confess Jesus Christ to be the Son of God – (Rom 10:10) “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
 - 1. Have the example – (Acts 8:37) “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
 - iv. Be Baptized – (Mark 16:16) (Acts 2:38)
- b. We must live faithful until death – live the life of a Christian – not one that is one by name only but one by name and action