

Are You Ready?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Are you ready is a question that we have been asked and have asked others. It may be when it is about time to go to church or somewhere else. We make preparations to go, depending on where we are going. Let us consider what the Lord said in the Bible about being ready. In **Matthew 24:44**, He says, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh..."

Do we understand what He means when He says to 'be ready'? We may hear different answers from various people. Some would say, ready to die, others ready for judgment, or ready to meet the Lord. Each is valid and speaks of leaving this life on earth.

Just as we prepare to go to work or anywhere else we need to prepare to meet the Lord. How can we do this? First we listen to His Word. Not man, but what God has said it what we need to be concerned with. The Father said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: hear ye Him." (**Matt.17:5**) Hear what God has said about how to be

saved and how to live. What have you been taught about how to be saved? Does it teach all that Jesus said and not contradict His teachings? Some say they follow the doctrine of Jesus and then they dare mock and scorn some of the things that He said to do.

Second, after we hear His Word, we should believe it. To believe is not just to say we believe it but also, to act on it. If we accept that a liar is a sinner and that the Lord will condemn such a person, then we will repent of lying and stop doing it. And, other sins as well. We also must believe that Jesus is the only way to be saved and follow His commands.

Third, will come, after hearing and believing, it is repentance. To repent is to be sorry for, and to turn from, our sins. If we don't stop doing wrong then we are not truly sorry for sin. Remember Jesus died to save us from sin, not so we could keep doing them. (**Romans 6:1-2**)

Confession is the next step in the plan of salvation. Most people think of confession as what we do when we come before the church and confess Jesus as our savior. It is, but there is more. Each day of our life, the way that we live shows what we are and what we believe. We need to confess to Jesus that we are a sinner and to the world that Jesus is our Lord.

Man says that is all that there is to it. Case closed, but, what does the Word of God say? In **Acts 2:38** Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said when asked what should be done to be saved, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." In **Acts 22:16** Paul relates what Jesus told him to do, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Is it important to do this? Well, the Lord said to do it and the church taught and practiced it according to the commandment of the Lord. There are many more scriptures that show this but I have mentioned two. If you believe that the Lord and His followers knew what they were talking about then do what He said to do.

Then when we are saved we are to live for Him the rest of our lives. If a person is a Christian on Sunday only, then that person is a hypocrite. A true child of God is the same every day of the week in doing what is right. When He tells us that we are to be led of the Spirit He is speaking of the Holy Spirit leading us each day, not us following our own desires.

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

"LET'S GO HUNTING!" IN TODAY'S LANGUAGE THAT PHRASE BRINGS TO MIND A PLEASANT DAY IN THE FIELDS WITH A GOOD DOG, THE TAKING OF A PHEASANT OR TWO—FINE SPORT! NOT SO IN BIBLICAL TIMES! TOO OFTEN IT WAS A CALL TO THE UNPLEASANT DUTY OF RIDDING THE COUNTRYSIDE OF SOME BEAST OF PREY—USUALLY THE FEROCIOUS LION! THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE CONTAIN MANY REFERENCES TO THE LION AND, ALTHOUGH HARDLY A ONE CAN BE FOUND TODAY IN WHAT IS TERMED THE BIBLE LANDS, THE AREA ABOUNDED WITH THEM IN THOSE TIMES.



ANCIENT WRITINGS, PAINTINGS, AND SCULPTURE, HAVE REVEALED MANY RECORDS OF LION HUNTS. THE PLENTITUDE OF YOUNG KIDS, LAMBS, ELDERLY PEOPLE, AND SMALL CHILDREN, ALL EASY PREY, ATTRACTED THESE BEASTS AND, WHEN THEIR DEPREDDATIONS BECAME TOO NUMEROUS, A LION HUNT WAS ORGANIZED TO WIPE THEM OUT, OR AT LEAST DRIVE THEM OUT OF THE AREA.

THIS DUTY USUALLY FELL TO ROYALTY AND THE UPPER CLASSES BECAUSE THEY HAD HORSES AND CHARIOTS AND PLENTY OF SOLDIERS OR SERVANTS WHO WERE EXPERT WITH BOW AND ARROW. ALTHOUGH HORSE RACING HAS BEEN CALLED "THE SPORT OF KINGS," YOU MAY BE SURE THAT LION HUNTING EARNED THIS TITLE LONG BEFORE—EXCEPT, UNFORTUNATELY AT TIMES, IT WAS FAR FROM WHAT WE TODAY WOULD CALL SPORT!

NEXT WEEK: "TO MARKET WE GO!"

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