

Ready to Go

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

2 Tim 4:6. "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."

Paul wrote this knowing that he was condemned to die for his faith in Jesus. His journey here in this life was coming to an end and he faced it with faith and confidence in God. There is no sign of fear and despair in his heart, only a looking ahead to being in the presence of the Lord that he had served so faithfully since his conversion and salvation. He was ready to die if that was the Lord's will. Paul had been delivered from death on other occasions, but this time he knew that he was going to leave this life. He had no fear, only hope and joy because he truly believed the promise of God.

We may not know of the day of our death as Paul did, but it will come one day for all of us. The only ones who will not face death will be the people who are saved and living when Jesus comes for his church. However we meet the Lord, whether by death and the resurrection, or by the rapture, we must be ready to go. That is the question for each of us and must be answered – are we ready

to go? **Luke 12:40.** "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. To be ready means that we have obeyed the Lord and are faithfully serving him. Jesus gave us the knowledge to know and to do the will of God. It only remains for us to do what he said, and yes, he does mean for us to do what he said. And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" **Luke 6:46.**

Paul and all who obey the Lord have confidence in their salvation and have no fear of dying and leaving this world behind. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. "He that feareth is not made perfect in love," **1 John 4:18.** Why should we fear to meet the one who loved us enough to die for us? If we have obeyed the Lord and not only believe in him, but also love him, there is no reason to fear death, or meeting him.

For the Christian death is not the end, but a glorious beginning of eternal life. As Paul, and all others who are saved, are taken away from persecution and the troubles of this life, so will it be for all the redeemed. Who could read of the blessing of eternal life and the joy of heaven and not want to be there? If a person is walking with the

Lord in deed and not just in word, he should be happy to think of being where there is no pain and death.

If we are not saved by the grace of God and don't know Jesus as Lord and Savior, then we are not ready to go out of this life. Religion is not the answer. When Paul hated the church and persecuted the saints, he had religion, but he didn't have salvation. There are a lot of people in our world today who have much religion, but they are filled with the things of this world. They have a form of religion, but deny the power thereof as it says in **2 Timothy 3:5.** Those who hate and judge others are not ready to meet the Lord.

Paul preached the gospel to those who hated him and he prayed for them who cursed him. This is what a child of God is supposed to do and by following the leading of the Holy Spirit he is obeying the will of God. Doing God's will and not our own is what we have to do and is what we should want to do. Are we really doing the will of God, or are we just saying that we are? Do we love people in truth, or are we just acting like we do? The Lord knows our hearts while men see our deeds, or as someone has said, "Men see what we do, God sees why we do it." One day the Lord may say, "Ready, or not, here I come!"

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

SAMUEL AND SAUL

SEEKING ADVICE FROM THE PROPHET SAMUEL, SAUL HAS BEEN TOLD HE CAN FIND HIM INSIDE THE CITY, ABOUT TO PREPARE A SACRIFICE...

GO STRAIGHTWAY IN, BUT HURRY BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR THE SACRIFICE!

I MUST GET TO THE PROPHET BEFORE HE DEPARTS!

BUT SAUL NEED NOT FEAR MISSING SAMUEL, FOR ONLY THE DAY BEFORE, THE LORD HAS SPOKEN IN THE EAR OF SAMUEL...

ABOUT THIS TIME TOMORROW I SHALL SEND THEE A MAN OF BENJAMIN, HIM SHALT THOU ANOINT TO RULE OVER MY PEOPLE!

... AND SO, EVEN AS SAUL ENTERS RAMAH, SAMUEL HAS BEGUN A SEARCH FOR HIM...

... AND NOW THEY MEET! AND AS THEY DO, SAUL HAS NO IDEA OF THE GREAT CHANGE ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE IN HIS SIMPLE LIFE!

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