

**ARE YOU READY?  
Romans 1:8-15**

**Introduction:**

1. We often find ourselves getting ready for important occasions.
  - a. We get ready to go to Bible study and worship on the Lord's Day.
  - b. We get ready for Christmas by shopping, planning, etc.
  - c. We get ready to go on a long trip by advance preparation.
2. If we hope to go to Heaven, we must certainly get ready.
  - a. Most of us plan carefully for the important things in life.
  - b. Many fail to plan for the most important thing of all - going to Heaven.
3. In order to go to Heaven, there are some things we must be ready to do.

**Discussion:**

**I. WE MUST BE READY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL.**

**A. Paul was ready to preach the Gospel anywhere, anytime.**

“So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you who are in Rome also” (Romans 1:15).

1. Marshall Keeble accepted a challenge to a debate by a denominational preacher.
2. “When do you want to have it?” asked the challenger.
3. “Right now is good,” replied brother Keeble.
4. “But don't you want time to get ready?” the challenger asked.
5. “I stay ready,” brother Keeble replied.

**B. Paul felt he must preach because he was a debtor (Romans 1:14).**

1. He had been saved though he had persecuted the church (1 Timothy 1:12-15).
2. He was not “ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16).
3. N. B. Hardeman said: “I would be afraid to be ashamed of the Gospel and I would be ashamed to be afraid to preach the Gospel.”

**II. WE MUST BE READY TO RECEIVE GOD'S WORD.**

**A. We must receive God's Word in order to be saved.**

**“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21).**

**B. The Bereans were “more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).**

- 1. Thomas Jefferson used a razor to cut out all parts of the Bible which dealt with the miraculous and the supernatural.**
- 2. King Jehoiakim cut Jeremiah's written prophecy in pieces and threw it into the fire (Jeremiah 36).**
- 3. God's Word cannot be destroyed (Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:23).**

**III. WE MUST BE READY TO GIVE A DEFENSE FOR OUR HOPE.**

**A. We must be ready to defend the truth of the Gospel.**

**“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).**

- 1. To “sanctify” the Lord is to hold Him in reverence.**
- 2. To give a defense means that we must be able to tell people what we believe and why we believe it.**
- 3. To do this requires study of God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15).**

**B. Could you give the Bible answer with book, chapter and verse if you were asked such questions as:**

- 1. What must I do to be saved?**
- 2. What does the Bible teach about the church?**
- 3. What does the Bible teach about marriage and divorce?**

**IV. WE MUST BE READY TO GIVE AND WILLING TO SHARE.**

**A. Paul told Timothy to command Christians not to trust in uncertain riches.**

**“Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may hold on eternal life” (1 Timothy 6:18,19).**

**B. The only money we keep is that which we give away.**

- 1. This is how we lay up treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).**
- 2. It is the best investment we can make:**

**“He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord and He will pay back what is given” (Proverbs 19:17).**

**V. WE MUST BE READY TO MEET JESUS WHEN HE COMES.**

**A. No one knows when the Lord will return.**

**“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of Heaven, but My Father only” (Matthew 24:36).**

**B. In Matthew 24, Jesus answered two major questions:**

**“...when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the world” (Matthew 24:3)?**

- 1. He answered the first question regarding the destruction of the temple (at the destruction Jerusalem in AD 70) in verses 4-35.**
- 2. He gives numerous signs by which they will know the time of destruction is near.**
- 3. Beginning in verse 36 Jesus answers the second question concerning His coming and the end of the world.**
- 4. No signs are given but it will be sudden and unexpected.**

**“Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matthew 24:44).**

**VI. WE MUST BE READY TO DIE WHEN THE TIME COMES.**

**A. A prophet warned Paul he would face imprisonment in Jerusalem.**

**“Then Paul answered, ‘What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ’” (Acts 21:13).**

**B. Paul faced death unafraid for he knew it was gain (2 Timothy 6:6-8).**

**Conclusion:**

- 1. Nothing is more important than getting ready to go to Heaven.**
- 2. No one is ready to go unless He is in Christ (Galatians 3:26,27).**

