

(Continued from page 2)

that is pleasing to Him. "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells" (2 Pet. 3:10-13, NASB).



Navarre church of Christ

will host a gospel meeting with

Norman Sewell

Evangelist with the Capps Road church in Harrison, Arkansas

Sunday, May 23 through Wednesday, May 26

Sunday times

9am—Bible Study

Worship 10am and 6pm

Monday through Wednesday: 7pm

Are you ready? ~

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call for directions and more information (850) 939-8109

Navarre church of Christ
8490 James M Harvell Rd
Navarre, FL 32566

Place Stamp Here

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service ___ 10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service ___ 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 7:00 PM

VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

This entire publication and previous issues are available online at navarrechurchofchrist.net along with some more useful information

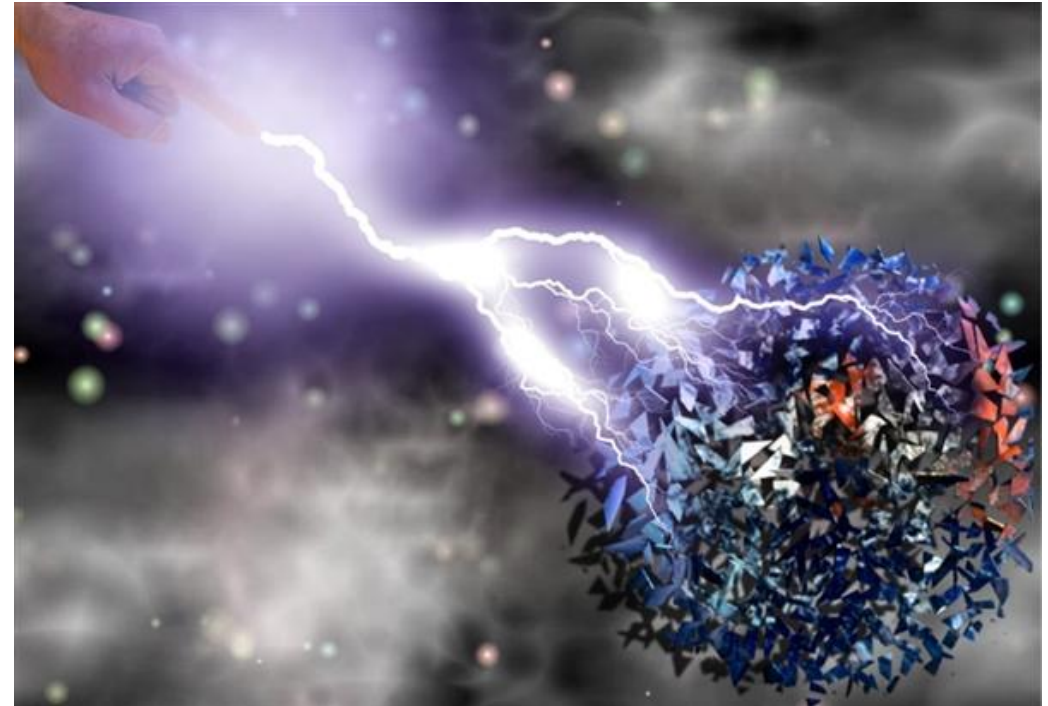
For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

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Are You Ready?



By Mark E. Larson

"Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps alight. And be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom

the master shall find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them. Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. And be sure of this, that if the head of the house

had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect" (Luke 12:35-40, NASB).

It is amazing to me how much more ready the state of Virginia

was for the latest major snow storm than the previous one in December that brought close to two feet of snow in some places. Instead of the delay of snowplows to clear the roads and the failure of residents to stock up on food and snow-shovels, everyone seemed to be much more ready for the latest arctic blast. Could it be that they learned their lesson?

If only everyone lived life by this principle: "Be dressed in readiness" (Luke 12:35a). Whether it is preparing for the next major weather event, economic hardship, a medical emergency, the threat of nuclear war or the next terrorist attack wisdom demands that we live life in a state of readiness. Yet, far too often, we are not watchful for the next "storm" and we are caught off guard and forced to learn the hard way the importance of readiness.

How ready are you for the Judgment Day?

More important than being ready for any earthly catastrophe is our state of readiness for the Judgment Day. Rather than waste precious time on pre-millennial theories that attempt to predict His coming (that have no basis in Scripture), Jesus says: "You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect" (Luke 12:40). Unlike a major storm headed our way, we cannot predict with any amount of certainty when exactly Jesus will come to judge the world. Since God has not told us when Judgment Day will occur, the key is to be ready at all times, to maintain a state of readiness for the Master's return.

What confidence can we have

that we are ready for that great day? Do you in fact know for sure that you are ready? We cannot "stock pile" a bunch of good works in hopes of being prepared or "good enough" for Jesus to let us into Heaven, for salvation cannot be earned or achieved by personal merit (Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 1:9; Tit. 3:4-7). So then what does it take to be ready?

Have you been converted?

Being ready for the Judgment Day begins first with our conversion to Christ. "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord," (Acts 3:19, NKJV). To be "converted" literally means "to turn to." Therefore, when a person is converted to Christ, he or she has turned from sin to God (Acts 26:20). This is the day when a person as a penitent believer is baptized into Christ to become a Christian (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27). God, not us, is at work at baptism to grant us the forgiveness of our sins (Col. 2:12-13).

Conversion requires repentance (Acts 3:19, See above). To repent literally means to "change your mind." In the case of conversion to Christ, it is a change for the better. Those who are baptized into Christ are changing the course of their life by turning away from sin to God: "And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:38, NASB). Why we repent goes back to our desire to be ready for the day of Judgment: "Therefore having overlooked the

times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31).

Always Maintain a State of Readiness

To be ready for the Judgment Day requires simply that we believe in the Son of God and obey Him: "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). Works of obedience are not done so that God owes us salvation (Rom. 4:1-5), but to demonstrate that our faith is genuine (James 2:14-26). When Jesus returns, we want real faith to be seen in us: "However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8b).

There is a constant state of readiness that we must maintain everyday if Jesus is to find us faithful on that great day. Servants of Christ understand that everyday could be the day when Jesus returns and anticipate His arrival: "Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching" (Luke 12:37a, NKJV). "Looking for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). Everyday is a day to watch for the Lord's return!

Our readiness will be reflected on how seriously we take our commitment to Christ – to live a life

(Continued on page 4)

God-Consciousness

by Bill Hall

A truly godly man is one who lives with a constant realization of God's divine presence. He is God-conscious. When he awakes in the morning, there is God. As he dresses for work there is God. As he goes in to breakfast with his family, as he drives to work, as he works through the day, as he drives home, as he spends the evening hours, as he lies down on his bed at the close of the day, there is God.

Enoch was a man who was God-conscious, for he "walked with God" (Genesis 5:24). He enjoyed constant companionship with God. Wherever Enoch went, God went with him, and Enoch was always aware that He was there. He could not flee from God's presence (Psalm 139:7), nor did he seek to do so. He was a godly man.

How fortunate is that man who has developed within himself this God consciousness. It is easy for him to pray, for God is to him a close, ever near, companion whose "ears are open unto his prayers" (1 Peter 3:12). His talking with God is as natural as his talking with any companion.

He does not fear, for he just places his hand in God's in his



source of "every good gift and every perfect gift" (James 1:17).

He loves God. He talks to God. He walks with God. He is always conscious of God's presence. He is never without God. Yet, this relationship never degenerates into a "buddy-buddy" relationship, for he reverences God; he recognizes His awesomeness; he gratefully acknowledges his own personal unworthiness of such a relationship with Almighty God.

This is the very essence of godliness. Someone, years ago, observing the similarity between "godliness" and "God-like-ness," assumed that the two words meant the same. That false assumption was passed on to others, and has now gained a strong foothold in the thinking of a great number of people. W. E. Vines says that godliness "denotes that piety which, characterized by a godward attitude, does that which is well pleasing to Him." A godly person, then, is one who has a godward attitude, and whose constant consciousness of God leads him to be obedient to Him.

While visiting in a hospital, recently, we observed this sign, "Have you said Thank you, God today?" A godly person probably would have done so. Have you said, "Thank you, God" today? ~

times of trouble. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear. ..." (Psalm 46:1, 2). Even when walking "through the valley of the shadow of death," he can "fear no evil," for God is with him.

The power of temptation is greatly reduced, for he never forgets that "all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:13). His desire to please his ever present God is greater than the power of temptation.

He is thankful, recognizing God, with whom he walks, to be the