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11-10-2023  
BE PREPARED

If you ever were in the Boy Scouts or the parent of a Boy Scout, then you may remember the motto of the Boy Scouts was "Be Prepared." As a scout you were prepared when you went camping, you were prepared to be courageous, you were prepared to be kind to others and more. Your troop leader taught you to be prepared.

Preparation involves both the natural and the spiritual as a Christian. The season that we are in has defined our faith. Many have shallow faith because they didn't prepare for these hard days. Jesus told us that when he would return that it would be **"as in the days of Noah"** (Noe) in Luke 17. If we go back to Genesis and see what the conditions were like in the days of Noah, we go to Genesis 6:5 where it says, **"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."**

It is no surprise that we see evil called good and good called evil. We should not be surprised when we see the sexual deviations and sin that is taking place. We should not be surprised when the world is full of hatred and chaos. Jesus said it would also be like the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, and that condition is so prevalent now, even in the church. Since we were told this would be the state of the world, it should be no surprise that we see these things.

Have we been prepared for this season? I would say no. I would say the message from the pulpit has often been about being blessed, and I am all for that, but they have not preached that with being blessed comes persecution. You can be sure that persecution of Christians will increase. It happened in the early church and caused the church to be scattered.

Why? Probably, in my opinion they were scattered because they didn't want to leave their comfort zone and go into the world. When they didn't go voluntarily God brought persecution to force them to leave their comfort zone. They didn't prepare to leave their life as they knew it.

We may want to stay like children in the scouts, letting someone else lead us, but this is not the time for that. This is the hour that we must prepare like never before. This is the time to get things right with God, then share your light with others. In a survey taken, Christians were asked why they didn't share their faith, and the highest percentage was with the answer "fear." Fear paralyzes us. But God tells us that he **has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.** (2 Timothy 1:7.) So, if God didn't give it to us, we can be certain that Satan did.

We must not let fear keep us from sharing our testimony with others. Fear should never control us. Be determined today to prepare spiritually to be light in the darkness overtaking the world. [Click here](#) to understand why we need salvation. That is the greatest preparation of all.