
[You must be ready.](#)

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Biblical readiness for tomorrow's uncertainty.

"You must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Luke 12:40)

What does readiness look like?

Is it holding up in a cabin in the woods? Is it trembling by the fire with a tattered copy of Left Behind?

We are to be ready- and our readiness is measured in how we steward our lives. I'd like to challenge you as a steward in four areas of readiness. What was Paul's word to young Pastor Timothy? What was the commitment level of believers as they wait for the return of Christ?

Christians were to devote themselves to the 'public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, and to teaching.' (1 Timothy 4:13). Paul equipped his charge with this instruction because "the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons" (1 Tim. 4:1) Ready pastors and ready leaders will be those who "preach the word, ready in season and out, reproving, rebuking, and exhorting, with complete patience and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2). Why? "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching. But having itching ears will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths." (2 Tim 4:3-4)

Jesus asks his disciples, "when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8) What will this faith look like? It will be characterized by biblical readiness. A belief and hope in the truth of God's Word and a courage to entrust oneself to it in the face of trial, persecution, and worldly loss.

We all know Hebrews 4:12 well, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." But rarely do we set this great verse in its wonderful context. Verse 11 tells us that we are to "strive to enter that rest [the coming 'rest' of God's people at his glorious return] so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience". Verse 13 reminds us that one day we will give an account to God.

The good steward who believes the Lord is returning, who believes that his heart will be laid bare before his God on that day, will begin the work of examining one's self and allowing the work of God's Spirit to be used through His Word.

Adapted text from the posting by Erik Braun

<http://fouroakschurch.com/index.php/news-events/pastor-eriks-blog/biblical-readiness/>