

IN AN HOUR THAT YE THINK NOT

Matt 24:42-51

INTRODUCTION:

- A. There are many things said about preparing
- B. Jesus said: "I go to prepare a place for you" Jhn 14:2
- C. Amos said: "Prepare O Israel to meet thy God Amos 4:12
- D. Noah prepared an ark to saving of his house Heb 11:7

DISCUSSION:

I. MUCH PREPARATION IS MADE TODAY

- A. For the physical elements
 - 1. Wind, rain, lighting, bombs, etc
 - 2. We buy insurance for protection
- B. Physical well being
 - 1. Food, clothing, shelter, education, etc
 - 2. Accident and health insurance
- C. Where a danger is known, or a need for protection is Seen in this life, most people make preparations
 - 1. Much preparation is made in case of tornadoes
 - 2. Yet many are found unprepared

II. PREPARATION IS NECESSARY BECAUSE

- A. Judgment is coming
 - 1. After death comes the judgment Heb 9:27
 - 2. All appear before the judgment 2cor 5:10
 - 3. All in the grave will hear His voice Jhn 5:28,29
 - 4. Appointed a day He will judge Acts 17:30,31
 - 5. The time is uncertain 1Thess 5:1-3
- B. Too much at stake (our soul)
 - 1. What shall it profit Mk 8:36,37
 - 2. Fear not ones who can destroy body Matt 10:28
- C. Life is too uncertain not to prepare
 - 1. Life is as a vapor Jas 4:13,14
 - 2. All flesh is as grass 1Pet 1:24
 - 3. Man born of woman of few days Job 14:1,2
 - 4. Because of the uncertainty of life, the only thing we can do is be prepared for death

III. HOW CAN WE BE AND STAY PREPARED

- A. Search the Scriptures Jhn 5:39
 - 1. Instructions to the Jews under law
 - 2. "In them ye think ye have eternal life..."

- B. Be doers and not hearers only Jas 1:22-24
- C. Obey the gospel plan of salvation Rom 1:16
 - 1. Hearing the gospel Rom 10:17
 - 2. Believe or have faith Heb 11:6
 - 3. Repent of sins Acts 2:38; Lk 13:3
 - 4. Confess faith in Christ Rom 10:9,10
 - 5. Be baptized into Christ Mk 16:16; Rom 6:3,4; 1Pet 3:21
- D. Add Christian graces 2Pet 1:5-10
- E. Hope to the end 1Pet 1:13

IV. THE TRAGEDY OF NOT BEING PREPARED

- A. Foolish virgins Matt 25:1-13
 - 1. Five wise - made sufficient preparation - ready when the bridegroom came
 - 2. Five foolish - made some preparation but not sufficient - not ready and the door was shut
- B. One talent man Matt 25:14-28
 - 1. We must use the opportunities we have
 - 2. If we do not take advantage of the opportunities we have to prepare, they will be lost
- C. Rich man Lk 16:19-31
 - 1. Only concerned about self
 - 2. No compassion on needy
 - 3. Thought about family after too late

CONCLUSION:

- A. The outcome of not preparing
 - 1. Outer darkness Matt 25:30
 - 2. Everlasting fire Matt 25:41
- B. The outcome of preparing
 - 1. Inherit a kingdom Matt 25:34
 - 2. Have life eternal Matt 25:46