

Are You Prepared?

We are not to be as the foolish virgins described in Matthew 25:1-13. They were not prepared for the bridegroom's return. They had no oil for their lamps. However, the wise virgins were prepared with their wicks trimmed and oil in their lamps.

We too must not be foolish, but prepare ourselves for life on this earth as well as for eternity in heaven.

As a young man and a Boy Scout, I remember well the scout motto "Be Prepared". Scouting prepared me to fulfill my role to God, family and country. It was a very rewarding experience that prepared me for adulthood.

My public education helped to determine my personal gifts and talents and to prepare me to make a positive contribution to life on this earth.

And then came World War II when I was drafted into the U.S. Army. There again, I went through extensive training to prepare me to defend our country.

The preparation for our natural life is very important. However, it must be overshadowed by preparation for our spiritual life in order for us to be prepared to spend eternity with our heavenly father.

At 15 years of age the Lord had prepared me for the greatest experience in all my life and that was the day I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. At that point I started preparing myself for a life of service in God's army. As part of the preparation process for God's army, we are first told to cleanse ourselves: "If a man cleanses himself from the latter (wickedness), he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the master and prepared to do any good work." II Timothy 2:21

Then we are told in I Timothy 4:7 that we are to "train ourselves to be Godly". No one goes into battle without adequate training and preparation. We are reminded that in God's army: "No one is discharged in time of war" Eccl. 8:8. No battle is won by retreating.

Our part in the preparation for battle is revealed in Ephesians 6:13 where we are told to: "Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

We must always remember, that if we do our part, God will do His. In II Chronicles 20:15 the Lord spoke to King Jehoshaphat these words: "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's."

When we have submitted ourselves to God and allowed Him to prepare us for life and service naturally and spiritually; we can be assured that we have prepared ourselves to spend eternity with Him. We can therefore acknowledge that: "O we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Eph. 2:10) In addition, we have the promise that: "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom." (II Tim. 4:18)

Are you prepared for the Bridegroom's return?