

The Bulletin of
The Golden Isles
CHURCH OF CHRIST

441 Touchstone Parkway ♦ Brunswick, Georgia 31525

Volume 2

June 2, 2002

Number 1

Be Prepared

By Steve Klein

There is an ancient proverb (or maybe it's just an old saying) that goes something like this: It is best to dig the well before you need the water. There is a Biblical Proverb which gives similar instruction: "Go to the ant...Consider her ways and be wise; which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest" (Proverbs 6:6-8). Ants and well diggers both have sense enough to prepare ahead of time to meet future needs.

There will be many times in the life of a Christian when he will have the opportunity to give a wise answer to a spiritual question, or perform some act of kindness, or help someone who is in need. The Christian who has failed to prepare himself will not be equipped to fulfill these responsibilities. It may be a cliché, but failing to prepare is preparing to fail. There is no excuse for the Bible believer to be unprepared to answer basic spiritual questions, or to do a good work or to give to the needy. The Scriptures not only instruct us to do these things, they also instruct us to PREPARE to do these things. Read the following verses carefully and pay special attention to the word "ready" -- it means to be willing AND prepared.

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" -- 1 Peter 3:15.

"...be ready for every good work" -- Titus 3:1.

"Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" -- 1 Timothy 6:18.

Here are some practical suggestions for those who want to prepare themselves in these areas:

1. To prepare to answer: Study your Bible regularly. Attend and participate in Bible classes. Read religious material, especially things written by faithful brethren. These are great ways to prepare to give a defense when friends and neighbors ask you a reason for the hope that is in you.

2. To prepare to do good works: Obviously, the person who wants to be prepared to do good works must cease to be involved in works that are not good and must limit participation in other non-essential activities, which (though neither good nor bad in themselves) rob him of time.

Times of Services

Sundays - 2:00 pm Bible class, 3:00 pm Assembly Wednesdays - 6:30 pm Bible class

(con't from previous page)

3. To prepare to give to the needy: The person who wishes to be prepared to give to the needy must not indulge himself in spending all of his spare cash on every techno-luxury our society has to offer. It might help to set aside a little spare cash occasionally to have to help others as needs arise.

Preparation is a key to success in almost any endeavor. Every Boy Scout knows to Be Prepared; that's the Scout's motto! As people dedicated to the service of Christ, it wouldn't be a bad motto for you and me either. Let us be "prepared for every good work" (2 Timothy 2:21).

-- by Steve Klein from *The Bulletin of the church of Christ at New Georgia*
May 5, 2002 Issue

Do You Pray?

by Bill Hall

The worshiper who would pray in the assembly must do more than bow his head and close his eyes. He must pray. "Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uniformed say 'Amen' at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say?" (1 Cor. 14:16). This verse suggests four requirements if one is to enter into a prayer.

1. He must listen to the prayer. One cannot legitimately say "Amen" at the conclusion of a prayer if he has not listened to the prayer. "Mind-wandering" is an ever-present problem. We sing, but we don't observe the words of the song. We bow our heads, but we don't listen to the prayer. We sit through the sermon, but our minds wander to things of an earthly nature. Consequently, we attend worship periods, but we don't worship as we ought. If one is to pray, with the congregation, he must listen to the prayer.
2. He must understand the prayer. When a man in the first century led a prayer in an unknown tongue, the worshiper could not say "Amen," for he could not understand the language in which the prayer was spoken. Neither could the worshiper say "Amen" today if the leader has not spoken loudly enough to be heard or if he has used words or phrases which the worshiper does not understand. Those who lead prayers in the assembly should be conscious of the needs of the whole congregation, speaking up where all can hear and using words which all can understand.
3. He must agree with the prayer. A number of years ago, while sitting beside an older preacher, I observed his saying "Yes" or "Yes, Lord" at the conclusion of each separate phrase of the prayer as it was being led. He spoke the words softly enough that I was probably the only one in the assembly who could hear them, but I was impressed. Obviously, this brother was listening to every phrase, determining whether or not he agreed with the phrase, and was then softly speaking his agreement. He was not just sitting through a prayer; he was praying. Occasionally, we hear sentiments expressed in prayer with which we do not agree. To these sentiments we cannot say "Amen."
4. He must say "Amen." The word "Amen" means "so let it be." We long to hear the strong, resounding "Amen" at the close of prayers which we used to hear. We fear that the move away from this practice is just another step toward cold, lifeless formality in our worship periods. We are not contending, however, that one must say the word "Amen" audibly; but we are suggesting that at least in his mind he should say "Amen," thus making the prayer his own prayer. He has listened to the prayer; he has understood the prayer; he has agreed with the prayer; now he speaks to God his "Amen" or approval of the prayer as his prayer. In this manner, he unites with other worshipers in common prayer unto God.

-- by Bill Hall from *The Bulletin of the church of Christ at New Georgia*
January 6, 2002 Issue

Attend the church of GOD's choice,
Not the church of YOUR choice.

Romans 16:16 "...the churches of Christ salute you."

Please visit our website at: <http://www.religiousinstructor.com/church>
