

LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN...A READY LIFE

By Keith Greer

“Then Paul answered, what do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” {Acts 21:13}
Yes, Paul was “ready” to follow whatever course was before him for His Lord’s sake. God’s people must adopt this same type of mindset. This involves a readiness to:

Preach the gospel. *“I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.” {Romans 1:14,15}* Yes, Paul preached the gospel wherever he went. Early Christians did the same, *“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.” {Acts 8:4}* Every Christian must develop this desire to take the gospel to the lost sinner. Sinners are in a world of darkness and we must be ready to point them to the light of the gospel!

Give an answer. *“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}* God’s people must be prepared to give an answer of our hope we have received in Christ. Christians need to be prepared to defend the truth to those who oppose it. *“But the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.” {Philippians 1:17}* Sometimes all men need is an answer to a spiritual question that might guide to the cross. Are we ready with those answers?

Every good work. *“And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.” {Titus 3:14}* Every Christian needs to be preparing to do “good works” in their lives. God made this a priority in the life of a Christian. *“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” {Titus 2:14}* How can this be accomplished? Knowledge of the word of God prepares one for this important task. *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” {2 Timothy 3:16,17}*

Distribute. *“Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share.” {1 Timothy 6:18}* God’s people must be prepared to share the blessings that He richly bestows on us in our lives with others. *“But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?” {1 John 3:17}* Blessings are not to be hoarded by us, but to be shared with those who need them and can be won to Christ by our efforts. *“Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.” {Galatians 6:6}*

Suffer. *“If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.” {1 Peter 4:14-16}* Yes, God has warned us that living for Him will bring to us some measure of suffering. Faithful Christian living makes this an unavoidable reality. *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus*

will suffer persecution.” {2 Timothy 3:12} The question is not if one will suffer, but if we have prepared ourselves for such times in our lives?

Sadly, it will increase your faith or will destroy it. How ready we are will determine the course it takes in our lives. Good preparations will ensure that we will have a great success and not a dismal failure! Readiness is a very personal matter for each of us – are you ready? ***