

ARE YOU READY?

Intro. "Ready, Set, Go" - for an athletic event.

I. Are You Ready to Meet God?

1. Mt. 24:44 - "Be ye also ready."
2. Paul said: "I am ready to be offered." 2 Tim. 4:6.
3. Ready to die. (contrast Napoleon & Mrs. Judson; Augustus Caesar & Paul).
4. God is Ready
 - A. to pardon you. Neh. 9:17
 - B. To forgive. Ps. 86:5
 - C. To save. Isa. 38:20
 - D. "All things are ready." Mt. 22:4

II. Are You Ready to Serve God?

1. Rom. 10:15, ready to preach
2. Ready to suffer. Lk. 22:33; Acts. 21:13
3. Ready to witness. 1 Peter 3:15
4. Ezra a "ready scribe." (7:6)
5. the Psalmist said, "my Tongue is the pen of a ready writer." 45:1
6. A Great Harvest is ready, and God is calling for workers.
what might excuse us from other labor,
should not prevent us from serving Christ.

Once Brutus visited his personal deputy and found him ill, and said: "What, are you sick, friend?" "No, Brutus," Ligarius answered. "If you have some great task on hand for me, I am well." So should the believer say of Christ. what might excuse us from other labor shall never prevent our engaging in His service.

Ready to die: Contrast Napoleon and Mrs. Judson; Both died on St. Helena.

N. died in delirium, crying "Tête d'armée" - Head of the army. Mrs. J. 20 yrs later returning from her missionary toil, in the cabin of the ship anchored in the harbor of St. Helena, said, "I always did love the Lord Jesus Christ." and then she fell into a sound sleep for an hour and awoke amid the songs of angels.

Augustus Caesar, as he was dying said to his attendants, "Have I played my part well on the stage of life?" when they answered "yes" he said, "Why then don't you applaud me?"

Paul's dying reminiscence was: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day."

Augustus Caesar died amid pomp and great surroundings. Paul uttered his dying reminiscence through the wall of a dungeon. God grant that our dying pillow may be the closing of a useful Christian life, and the opening of a glorious eternity.

ARE YOU READY?

I. READY FOR WHAT?

- A. As in athletics -- tennis, for example
- B. On the firing line.
Ready on the left? Ready on the right?
- C. Ready for dedicated military service.
- D. Ready for marriage, parenthood.
- E. For commitment of your life to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?
- F. Ready for the Coming of Jesus Christ. Mt. 24:44.

II. WHY YOU SHOULD BE READY FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST.

- A. Because He will come unexpectedly --
(like a thief in the night. Mt. 24:43)
- B. Because He will come with special Rewards and Punishments--
As in the case of the Master who set servants over his household & some were faithful, and some were unfaithful, Mt. 24:45-51
- C. Because there will be no further opportunity--
The wise & foolish girls, Mt. 25:1-13

III. HOW YOU CAN BE READY

- A. By using your talents in the master's service.
Mt. 25:14-30
- B. By serving one another. Mt. 25:31-46