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Title: The Anchor in the Storm: Building on the Rock

Series: Biblical Foundations

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Executive Summary): True readiness is found in a life built upon the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. This briefing establishes that spiritual stability—derived from an intimate, saving relationship with Christ—is the prerequisite for all practical and emotional readiness.

I. The Context: The Shifting Ground

In our current era, the world often feels heavier than it once did, with many experiencing a sense of dread regarding the future. We see the news or our financial accounts and feel the ground beneath us shifting. Often, people attempt to find readiness by building on things that cannot last such as status, self-reliance, or simply trying to "get through the week".

Some, unfortunately, view any measure of being prepared for the eventualities of life as being less than an act of faith. Yet, do they not purchase home insurance to protect against wind, fire and burglary? Do they not purchase automobile insurance in case of an accident? Do they not purchase life insurance to replace their own income when they pass away? The list could grow from here.

The fact is, human beings know we will face unexpected, even unprecedented changes to the world around us and within our own lives. We take rational, no-nonsense steps to be ready to face those sorts of challenges. It is my contention that Christian Readiness is both rational and Biblical.

{Other briefings will cover how Christian Readiness is different from worldly prepping.}

We must ask: if everything we see changed tomorrow, what would be left standing? How would we cope with the new way of living? How will we care for our families? What sort of witness for Christ will we be?

The Christian Readiness Project (CRP) seeks to help you find the right answers to those questions. The triangle of our program (spiritual, emotional, practical) is designed to specifically help you do that. Things unexpected and unprecedented will happen. There will be emergencies, disasters, perhaps even wars, and other significant negative life-altering events.

II. Biblical Foundations: The Two Builders

- Our mission is built on the truth that in "these last days (Heb 1:2)," "*perilous times will come* (II Tim 3:1)". Our response is not to hunker down in fear, but to stand up in faith.

We look to the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:24-27 as our primary blueprint:

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

A. The Difference in Foundation: Both builders experienced the exact same storm; the difference was not the weather, but the foundation. One very foolishly did not consider the foundation of his building. The other did and wisely built on rock.

B. The Gospel Core: Naturally, due to sin, we are building on sand. Christ lived perfectly and died for our brokenness to provide a foundation that the "floods" of life cannot wash away. He is, indeed, the very Rock (I Cor 10:4)

C. Readiness vs. Prepping: Readiness does not start with a backpack or a plan; it starts with a Person. True readiness is being so secure in Christ's love that you are free to love others when they are panicking.

{Other briefings will cover how Christian Readiness is different from worldly prepping.}

III. Resilient Spirit: Faith as Readiness

A. We rely on the Holy Spirit for the discernment and direction required to make sound decisions during a crisis. To learn to do so during normal, less challenging times builds our ability to do so when difficulties arise. Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the Comforter (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)

B. A Sound Mind: "*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*" (2 Tim 1:7). The progression here is 3-fold concerning what God has given to defeat the spirit of fear: power, love, and sound mind. Each is useless without the other. Together they are a formidable antidote for paralyzing fear. With that said, Paul then spoke to Timothy and about the Lord, Paul's on afflictions within the context of

"testimony". Readiness is about more than surviving, it is about continuing to be a believer that is useful in the hands of the Lord as a witness to Jesus Christ.

- C. The Mission of Peace: We seek the "*peace that passes understanding*" (Phil. 4:7) to guard our hearts as we move into the week of challenge. Starting in verse 3 of that passage; Paul is addressing those "*whose names are in the book of life.*" In verse 4 he calls for continual rejoicing no matter what may be. In verse 5, he elevates the need for "*moderation*" (KJV) or "*reasonableness*" (ESV). Verse 6 is a call to not be anxious (ESV) while taking everything by prayer to God. With that step-by-step guide, he can then confidently speak of the peace of God. His "Finally" directs us toward the intellectual and emotional focus that puts it all together.

Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

- D. Grace and Truth: We approach readiness with compassion for the challenges people face while upholding biblical principles for responsible stewardship. "Grace and truth" came into this world, and can come into our lives, by Jesus Christ and only by Him (John 1:17). Before we concern ourselves without how many cans of beans and bags of flour we need to store; we should make life worth living by receiving his grace and truth. If you have read up to this point and now realize you do not have the component of the Holy Spirit living in your life, nor received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. Please email me directly for information: gary@crpreadyroom.org

IV. Practical Readiness: Mission-Focused Service

- The Christian Readiness Project (CRP) ensures that our practical preparation leads to a response of faith rather than fear. This section will be kept very brief. Watch for additional papers that cover the following 4 topics:
 - A. The Joseph Model: We aim to be like Joseph—wise stewards who pursue readiness during quiet times so that when crisis hits, we can be a source of provision and God’s love for our neighbors.
 - B. Empowerment: We equip believers with the skills to utilize their own God-given resources and abilities.
 - C. Self-Reliance for Service: The more ready we are—spiritually, emotionally, and practically—the more equipped we are to defeat the assaults of the enemy.
 - D. Being a Light: We address these facets of readiness so that we can glorify God and be a light to the community when things are at their darkest.

Conclusion

You do not have to be afraid of the future when you know Who holds it. Our instruction points to His Word as the ultimate guide for both practical and spiritual readiness. *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Psalm 119:105).

The Readiness Check:

- Examine the Foundation: Are you building on the Rock of Ages or the shifting sands of self-reliance based on a fuller reliance on the Holy Spirit of God through Jesus Christ as your Lord?
- Commit to Action: Faith is action; to build on the rock means to hear His words and do them. Noah built an Ark, a monumental undertaking, without ever seeing a drop of rain. He acted in faith.
- Prioritize the Spiritual: Our major concern is spiritual readiness so that you respond to challenging times with faith and not fear. There are other things that need to be prepared for emergencies, disasters, wars, and other significant negative life-altering events. Things that are emotional and the practical preparations, too. We do cover those. For a believer in Jesus Christ, a Disciple, a Christian; it all starts in the heart relationship with the Lord.

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