

PREPARE TO DIE,
SO YOU CAN LIVE!



INTRODUCTION

Prepare to die so you can live!

Human beings, institutions, businesses, governments, and religions are not perfect. When they fail, we cry out, “hypocrites, greed, liars”. Worse, we can become cynical about everything around us.

Everyday failures and shortcomings abound in our less than perfect world.

- **Businesses fail us – but businesses continue.**
- **Families fail us – but families continue.**
- **Governments fail us – but governments continue.**
- **Religion fails us – but religions continue.**
- **You name it!**

What you’re about to read centers on the Gospel (the Good News) of Jesus Christ. No problem finding several examples of how human beings have messed that up also. Priests, televangelists,

preachers, your “Christian” friend, all can be cited for some sort of shortcomings or failures.

Are we then left with nothing?

The material presented in “Prepare To Die So You Can Live” confronts that question.

As it turns out, our solution is not human, it’s spiritual. Our example and only example is Jesus Christ whose simple message is – you cannot save yourself – I can.

“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him.”

John 3:18

Human beings can often be our worst example. Don’t look there. No human can judge you or save you. Christ can.

None of us can hold back our spirit from departing. None of us has the power to prevent the day of our death. There is no escaping that obligation, that dark battle. And in the face of death, wickedness will certainly not rescue the wicked. *Ecclesiastes 8:8.*

My purpose here is to share Good News. During our short lives, we can reconcile with our Creator. There is a way.

I want to share with you how that became real for me. Believe me, I am no better than you or anyone else. Through God’s plan, not my own, I am prepared to die and can live without worry and regret. I know where I am going. It would be irresponsible to not at least share the Good News with you.

If you aren’t already aware, I want to make sure you are now.

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? *Romans 10:14*

The testimony I am sharing is not to incite an argument – it is to share my experience. You are free to accept or reject the message.

I invite you to take a look at the following pages.

Many people own Bibles – few read them – or accept it as the Living Word of God.

Yeah right, written by men for political reasons.

Manipulation, an opiate to the people.

I invite you to take a look at the following pages.

THE STRAIGHT TALK

The Straight Talk

None of us can hold back our spirit from departing. None of us has the power to prevent the day of our death. There is no escaping that obligation, that dark battle. And in the face of death, wickedness will certainly not rescue the wicked.

Ecclesiastes 8:8

Yeah, I know that. Really? What is your date? As you ponder that, the mind will craft all sorts of falsehoods. Because, we really have no idea.

Ok, what if it's tomorrow? Next week? Next year?

We craft some more:

Fine, I'll die and that's it.

No, that won't happen.

What if there is a God?

What if there is a creator and this whole heaven and hell thing is real?

We will craft again:

I am a good person.

I haven't done this and I haven't done that, and I haven't done the other thing either. I'm not that bad.

I will explain to God. Wait a minute, there is no God.

So, it's all nonsense anyway.

For a moment – stay with me on this – let's just see what God himself says. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As the Scriptures say, "He traps the wise in the snare of their own cleverness."

1 Corinthians 3:19.

The word used here is "craftiness or cleverness." As human beings, our minds can cleverly put together things that we want to be true (even if they are not true).

Yeah, but I'm a good person. I'm not Hitler – this nonsense is for bad people, not me.

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. *Isaiah 64:6*

**As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous—not even one."
*Romans 3:10***

When God says that, He means not even the Pope, Mother Teresa, or Billy Graham. There is no one righteous, no not even one. The gospel message is about the righteousness of Jesus Christ, not anyone born of earthly flesh.

What does God do if no one is any good?

He provided the free gift of Salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

How do you earn it?

You don't.

Can I buy it?

No

Isn't this about money?

No

Can I get it?

Yes

You are his creation and you are valued and cherished. You have a body and soul. After our body dies, our soul will live on. This is God's plan, not ours.

GOD LOVES YOU

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

This is the gospel, the Good News. Jesus is our substitute because God said no one is good enough on their own – he gave us Jesus.

You don't realize that it's better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed. *John 11:50*

So this completes the title of this testimony that we have prepared. PREPARE TO DIE (WE ALL WILL) SO WE CAN LIVE. BY ACCEPTING JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR, AVAILABLE TO ALL THAT HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND SAY THEY NEED A SAVIOR, THE FREE GIFT OF SALVATION IS GIVEN. AT THAT MOMENT, THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY AGAIN ABOUT WHEN WE WILL DIE.

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.
John 10:27-30.

You know, even after one gets saved, we will continue to sin. But God has provided for that also. He freely forgives our sins if we confess our sins to Him.

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.
1 John 1:8-10.

The promise: No one can snatch them from his hand, no matter what happens. Once we accept Christ as our Savior we are sealed. It's the promise of God.

So when you have the assurance of eternal life, you can certainly live the finite life with full assurance and with no fear – your destiny is complete.

Remember, God will not hear our foolishness on our appointed time. He will not hear all our fancy, clever or justified falsehoods. Rather, only – I accept Christ, nothing I did – only with God's love, grace, and mercy do I approach the judgement seat. Jesus Christ is my Savior. He has completed something that I could not do on my own.

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."
John 14.6

FOUNDATIONS

Foundations – Whether You Believe It or Not.

Body, and soul.

God owns both. He accesses our soul through his spirit.

For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. *John 4:24*

The Bible Is the Word of God.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. *2 Timothy 3:16*

Our standard is the Word of God: The Bible. This is the measuring stick, which eliminates confusion and establishes a firm foundation. God's Word is God breathed and we can access truth through the Holy Spirit of God.

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. *John 1:1*

But to all who believe in Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan but a birth that comes from God. *John 1:12-13*

So, the word became human (that is, Jesus Christ) and made his home among us. He is full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. *John 1:14*

We stated in the inside cover that this is not an argument. This is a faith-based discussion, based upon the Word of God.

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? *Romans 10:14*

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. *Hebrews 4:12*

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable. *Hebrews 4:13*

There's no pleasing God without faith. He is not interested in our righteous deeds, our sacrifices, or any other man-made clever or crafty idea. The Word of God says this:

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. *Hebrews 11:6*

Don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness. *Hebrews 3:8*

The truth is, many people own a Bible (the top-selling book of all time) but very few know what it has to say. In our culture, we avoid reading and studying the Word of God. The confusion is not of God, but of Satan himself. The last thing he wants us to do is be in the Word of God.

You cannot earn eternal salvation.

You cannot bargain with God.

You cannot demonstrate with your mind why you are exempt.

Salvation and the acceptance of Jesus Christ, according to the Word of God, is the only way to have eternal life.

It is a gift from God.

God has given us a free will – one can accept or reject.

God's Word has made one thing clear – we cannot save ourselves.

BOTTOM LINE

Bottom line – there are only two types of people walking on earth – forgiven or unforgiven, saved or unsaved.

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Ok, I'm with you, kind of, so far. But, how did this all happen in the first place?

God recognized at the onset that man was fallen. Adam was the first created man and sinner. Adam's original fall in the Garden of Eden led to the very basic fact that everyone born into this world is born into sin. God realized it himself when he stated:

The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and He saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. So the Lord was sorry He had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke His heart. *Genesis 6:5-6*

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. *Romans 5:12*

How can I accept Christ?

When Jesus the Son of God came to earth he caused quite a stir.

Here is an account from that time of a man who got curious about this Jesus.

Nicodemus was a religious man – esteemed in his community. He was taken aback by what Christ told him.

This Verse is the Good News 

 New Living Translation

Jesus left Nicodemus with this:

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee.

2. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus.
3. "Rabbi", he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evident that God is with you." Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."
4. "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"
5. Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.
6. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.
7. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again'.
8. The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."
9. "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.
10. Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things?
11. I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony.
12. But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things?
13. No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven.
14. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,
15. So that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.
16. For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
17. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.
18. There is no judgement against anyone who believes in him. But, anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son."

MY PERSONAL SAVIOR

How Do I Accept Jesus Christ As My Personal Savior?

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. *Romans 10:9-10*

For, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. *Romans 10:13*

It can't be that simple. Yes, it is – or otherwise it wouldn't be valid. The invitation to Christ is open to **ALL PEOPLE**. God has no desire to see anyone perish. Remember it's Jesus Christ's righteousness, not ours. Otherwise, that would mean salvation could be earned – **it cannot** – but it is a gift that is free. It is based upon the grace and mercy of God, not anything that we can do or earn.

Road Blocks:

You don't know what I've done.

I have some bad habits that I don't want to give up.

The church screwed me over.

I'm not good enough.

I've worked for everything,
I need to work for this also.

All Satanic lies. The only thing needed is a humbleness that says – God, I need a Savior. I accept Jesus. I cannot save myself. I come to you just as I am because you love me.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. *Romans 8:38*

There are people praying for you:
That you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. We pray that you can prepare to die so that you can live freely in the abundance that Jesus Christ has provided.

Because all of us are sinners and fall short of God's holiness, He provided Jesus Christ to be our replacement. There is no explaining that away. The Good News – and there is great news that is called good news – is the salvation of Jesus Christ and his finished work on the cross for each one of us. — Jesus in place of me.

Nah, I don't buy it.

Wow – I get it – I prayed with my mouth that Jesus would save me.

Now what do I do?

In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents. *Luke 15:10*

There are two events – one process.

The events are two bookends.

Justification – the moment one accepts Christ.

Glorification – the moment our earthly time is done and we depart to be with the Lord.

The middle is where we are now.

The process of sanctification. The daily walk with the Lord. The relationship we have through prayer, the Word of God, and fellowship with other believers.

How do we have this relationship? At the moment of justification, the Holy Spirit of God is yours – the Spirit of Truth.

God – Jesus Christ – Holy Spirit – The Trinity of God. The Holy Spirit will be with us during our daily sanctification process – a relationship with the living God of the universe.

Q&A

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Will you ever talk to me again if I don't get saved?

A. Of course, God gives us a free will. Jesus Christ is yours to accept or reject.

Q. Will my life improve if I accept Christ?

A. I have no idea. I know you will never be alone and your eternity will be sealed.

Q. Don't you think it's arrogant? I mean, talking about your religion?

A. Religion is Satan's trump card. The greatest lie he ever told was "I don't exist." This invitation is about accepting Jesus Christ as Savior, not any religion.

Q. I already go to church.

A. Great! Do you know Jesus Christ as Savior?

Q. Do you think you or anybody else that preaches this Jesus stuff is perfect because you're in the Bible every day and you know Christ as Savior?

A. No way! God's grace is bigger than my sin and past, only difference... I've accepted Jesus Christ's finished work and righteousness to veil my flesh. Thank God. There is no pit in life so deep that the living Christ cannot move you, or me from it.

Q. Can I really pray that prayer out of Romans and be saved?

A. Yes!

Q. Should I feel different after I am saved?

A. That's like asking if I should have brown eyes or blue. Everyone is unique and different. I would warn you not to rely on your feelings – rely on submitting your will to God's Word, a firm foundation.

Here's what happens when you accept Christ as Savior.

Your eternity is sealed.

At that instant, you begin a daily walk with Jesus. Access is through Prayer, the Word of God, fellow believers, and Bible-believing churches.

Instantly, the Holy Spirit enters you. The Spirit helps you to understand God's Word and teaches you how to pray. — You have a spiritual birth.

You have the rest of your life (one second or one hundred years) to walk with the living God of the universe.

Q. What should I do if I get saved?

A. Tell someone. Tell a lot of people.

Post on our website:

www.preparetodiesoyoucanlive.com

We're all praying for you. Begin the process of finding a body of believers in a church where the Bible is preached.

Warning: A church is not a church if there is preaching from anything else but the Bible – run, don't walk, from this place.

Have a meeting with a pastor and ask a couple of questions.

Q. Is Jesus God?

A. This is a yes or no question – it must be yes.

Q. Is the Bible the Word of God? Yes or No?

A. Yes

Q. Is the Bible what you preach and teach? Yes or No?

A. The answer must be yes.

Q. Is the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior the single most important focus of your assembly? Yes or No?

A. The answer must be yes.

Q. Once I find a church, then what?

A. Go.– If you are unable, start with Moody Bible on the radio or online.

BEGIN A DAILY BIBLE STUDY

Begin a daily Bible study. Your church may have a program. Feel free to be a part of our daily Bible study on our website.

www.preparetodiesoyoucanlive.com

Begin studying the Word of God. Pray before you read the Bible, confess your sins and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's Word.

If you are comfortable, tell others what Christ did for you. Get access to this testimony brochure, and share with others just like someone shared with you. "Love your neighbor as yourself".

It's also helpful to find someone that can disciple you (a **mature believer**).

For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.

The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.

Psalms 103:11-13

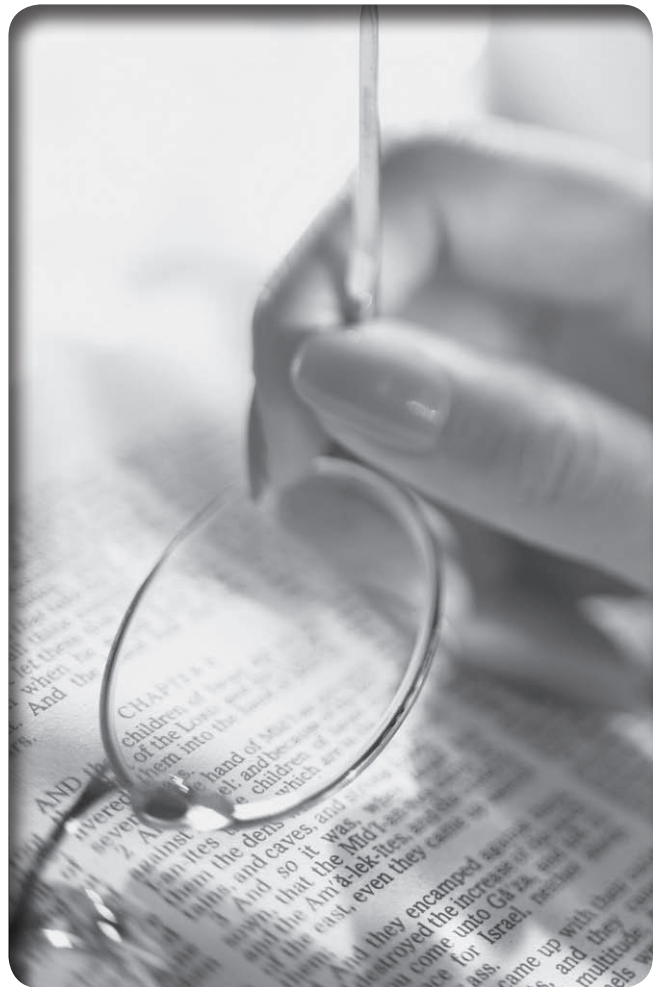
(Fear here means respect or honor).

The acceptance of Christ is all that is necessary. One time, and one time only. Even after you are saved you will sin, but Christ's finished work covers it all. We come to Christ just as we are.

Q. What if I can't change some of my habits?

A. Turn it over to the Lord. You won't lose your salvation. Just get in the Word daily, pray about it, share your burdens with other believers, so they can pray for you. Be patient, no guilt (Jesus paid for that) and let the Lord transform you from the inside out.

Let no life circumstance or past mistakes keep you from Jesus Christ. Get saved, and then let the Lord work in you.



Q. If I join a church, do I have to give money? I mean, that's all they want, right?

A. Do not give money out of obligation. Let the collection plate go right on by if you feel that way. Giving is a free will choice guided by the Holy Spirit. God does not need our money – he needs our hearts, and a relationship with him through Jesus Christ. As a believer matures, you will learn what God says about giving and obedience with that teaching will come in time.

JUST AS I AM

1 John 5:19 – We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

The spiritual world exists. There is good and evil.

Life on earth ends, life with Christ does not. Life without Christ when we die does not end well at all.

We have a choice while on earth to reconcile with our Creator. Spiritual warfare and human pride will tell us we don't need a savior. That same spiritual warfare will tell us Jesus Christ is nonsense, the Word of God is nonsense, and everything presented here is nonsense. Just know the source.

Life on earth can have many great moments. However, read your favorite news source every two hours if you like and look at the destruction and havoc that exists. Why doesn't this God fix it? Life on earth is finite. It can last one second or 120 years. It ends – the question is: Then what?

No president, psychologist, self-help book, or religion will make anything better. Jesus Christ came so as each one of us can reconcile with our Creator. **John 6:61-63 Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what will you think if you see the Son of Man ascend to heaven again? The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.**

Finally, and most importantly, you and I are not perfect – not even close. To pretend that we are is even worse. That goes for believer or non-believer alike. This is about Christ's righteousness, not ours.

**These
Are Human
Definitions
or Labels.
Christ Does
Not Label Us.**

This isn't for me
I am a drug addict
I drink too much
I have killed people
I am LGBT
I am an adulterer
I am gay
I am divorced
I am an atheist
I am a Protestant
I am a Catholic
I am Jewish
I am Hindu
I am Muslim
I am – fill in the blank

As was stated earlier – all our self-justification, traditions, excuses, trying to be good, craftiness, and human reasoning will carry zero weight with the living God. When honest, we are all in one boat or another – forgiven by Christ or unforgiven, saved or unsaved .

God says you are my creation and I love you in a way that you cannot imagine. Come to Christ as you are.

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New Living Translation

BELIEVERS' CALL TO ACTION:

Take a little faith and allow God to do something big.

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. *1 Peter 3:15*

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. *John 13:34*

The greatest love is Christ – people must hear it.

BELIEVERS' TOOLS:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.. *Acts 1:8*

But I will send you an advocate – the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. *John 15:26*

BELIEVERS: IT'S RIGHT THERE!

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. *Romans 1:20*

BELIEVERS' CONCLUSION:

We save no one. Our obligation is to share the Good News.

Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. *Daniel 12:2-3*

I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it's not my fault, for I didn't shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know. *Acts 20:26-27*

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SHARE

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THANK YOU

I am honored and grateful that you visited Prepare to Die So You Can Live. Our alignment is with God's Word. God wants us to reconcile with him. He provided the finished work of Jesus Christ. Our encounter with this fact is to accept or reject. Our prayer and desire is that you accept. If you have accepted, our prayer is that you share this with others.

Regardless of where you are in your journey, we invite you to join our Bible Study. The study takes 5-6 minutes per day. It is an easy way to hear God's Word every day. Please send your email contact to: info@preparetodiesoyoucanlive.com Just type (Bible Study) in the subject line. Again thank you so much for visiting. Mike