

The Power of Readiness, Part 6

"Are You Ready?"

Slide Notations

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world, with all its lusts, is passing away, but the one who does the will of God lives forever!" **1John 2.15-17**

Recap 1: We must have a plan for a binge-feed of the Word of God... because the Words of God must be *in us!*

Recap 2: We should be holding, not biting, the hand of the only One who can help us overcome this world!

Recap 3: Being forewarned and forearmed we can rightly respond to the issues of life/death we will face!

Recap 4: *Believing* the duality of God's kingdoms will alter the way we live and think, what we do and say! **(Born Again Picture)**

We do not have one reality here and another reality there... We have a sub-reality here that is connected to what's 'more real' there!

It's not a matter of doing what we want here and then having a do-over there! What I do here affects my eternity! What I am able to do here is determined by my readiness!

Am I ready to face temptations so I won't ruin my life/future/eternity by making a wrong choice?

From Gary Hart to Kwame Kilpatrick... Jim Bakker to Ted Haggard... we've seen:

Lust of eyes/flesh + vanity + power + opportunity + fear + one-life deception = "F"

Bring the reality of dual, simultaneous kingdoms – the conflict of old/new, carnal/spiritual man...

Eph 4.18-24 "People w/o understanding give themselves over to their lusts – but that's not you, in Christ! *You are to put off the old man*, corrupt by deceitful lusts; be renewed in the spirit of your mind; *and put on the new man created in righteousness and holy truth!*" **Col 3.1-10** "If you are risen w/Christ seek and set your love on things above, not the things of the earth! Deaden what connects and binds you to the lusts of the world, *put off the old man w/the lifestyle and put on the new man renewed by knowledge of the One that created you.*" **R8.1-14** "*Those who are fleshly, mind the things of the flesh, those of the Spirit, the things of the Spirit! To be carnally focused is death. To be Spirit focused is life and peace.* Carnal mindedness is the enemy of God. Those who are carnal cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh, but the Spirit. Brothers, you are not indebted to your flesh, to live after its desires. *If you continue to live after the flesh you will die! But if you, by the Spirit, deaden the desires and deeds of the flesh, you will live.* For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Post the warnings of enemy snares, forces, weapons, strategies, motivations...

Snares: deceiving spirits **1T4.1**, love of money (pt from which other evils spring) **1T6.9,10** abundant possessions **Mk 10.22**, vain imaginations, discussions, foolish questions, youthful lusts **2T2.16ff**, forces: wrestling principalities, powers, organized wickedness in high places, **E6.10-17**, fleshly lusts at war in your members **J4.1**, LOF/ LOE/POL **1J216** weapons: fiery darts, **E6.16** lying wonders **2Th 2.9**, ignorance **Hosea 4.6** blindness **E4.18** strategies: short time-great wrath step up **Rv12.12**, roaring lion **1P5.8**, motivation: steal/kill/destroy **J10.10**

Add in the specific, limited, time of drawing near to God and resisting the enemy...

The Spirit speaks expressly about the latter days when "people will depart from faith, listening to seducing spirits. **1T 4.1** when men become lovers of themselves and their lusts, covetous, proud, arrogant, wicked, slanderers, considering themselves above the law... **2T 3.1ff** Evil men and seducers will get worse, deceiving and being deceived, but you continue in what you have learned... others may turn from truth but you stay alert – endure, and keep getting people saved! **2T 3.13-4.7** Endure to the end and you will be "SOS'd!" I am telling you in advance so don't be deceived! **Mt 24.3-22**

I will be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord 1C 15.58, I will hold fast to what is good, abstaining from all appearance of evil 1Th 5.21,22; to the form of sound words 2T1.13; and to the profession of my faith, w/o wavering. H10.23 I am a partaker of Christ, steadfast to the end. H3.14

Dual kingdoms + storm warnings + time span = Christian success, kingdom multiplication, and eternal gratification!

So, let's ask ourselves, in light of the times and the time I have to make a difference...

"am I prepared to face the rising tide of temptations to sexual sin?"

Intense "sexualization" going on! TV/Movies/Magazines/Net – *Art or life?* Enhancement/ED commercials rampant! "I cook. Who cares?" mentality/sweeping! Most who say "yes" are untested (OK), and, unprepared (scary)!

What scriptures comprise your guard rails, or, safety net?

Do you understand the penalty for adultery? Problem w/fornication? Do you think of men as brothers and father's; women as sister's/mom's?

"Like an ox to slaughter... a fool to stocks... a dart thru the liver... hell is full of strong men – sexually slain"

"am I ready to deal w/religious shifts/assaults in the world?"

Watering down the Word to make room for different lines of thought? *Jesus is, or He is nothing!* If He didn't want us Jewish, He sure doesn't want us Buddhist, Muslim, etc. Oriental influence infusion/American business culture/church world

[Asides: "Courage, respect, focus, discipline, leadership, fitness..." Are those not things we should be transmitting from the Word? Would Jesus use Tae-kwon-do to teach His son those values/boost esteem? Would He use Yoga/Tae Bo to find tranquility, peace, focus, fitness? Meditation to boost productivity?]

What scriptures comprise your guard rails, or, safety net?

Do you understand the earthly/eternal cost for having other god's before Him? Do you understand what exposure to demon powers can do to our kids?

"there are ways that seem right to us... that are ignorant worship of idols... but it's only in God that we live and move!"

"am I ready to deal with the socio-political changes in my world?"

America is no longer the "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses - melting pot" Cultures not melting away/but forged. Not what forefather's had in mind. Not what God has in mind/Christian nation!

What scriptures comprise your guard rails, or, safety net against anti- anti-American sentiments?

Do you understand God's desire for a people who rise above their cultures?

"We don't separate by race, religious privileges, cultures, social ranks, not even gender! One thing matters and that is being in Christ, and in Him, we are one..."

"am I ready to deal w/the economic changes coming our way?"

Americans worried about \$4 gas, many people are dying for lack of water... Chindia now the biggest kid/block needing most food and energy! SS reported 1st mo. payouts will exceed income – triangle officially inverted... Bear Sterns \$400bil Fed Res bailout...

What scriptures comprise your guard rails, or, safety net against panic, fear and poverty?

What will I do with rising costs of life? Where will I turn if I lose my job?

The Lord will keep them in perfect peace who minds are fixed on Him! He is able to keep what I have committed to Him! He is faithful to those who keep covenant with Him and I am one!

We have choices to make, based on the forewarning, forearming, words of God... By them, we will serve our futures and our eternities, or w/o them we will drown in our lusts - Suffering the could-have-been's, should-have-been's, or rejoicing in lives well thought out and lived! RU READY?