

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Preparation

"Before anything else, preparation is the key to success." – Alexander Graham Bell

"The will to succeed is important, but what's even more important is the will to prepare." – Bobby Knight

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." – Colin Powell

"A winning effort begins with preparation." – Joe Gibbs

If we are honest, one of the most ill-prepared groups of people today are Christians. Their knowledge of Scripture is sorely lacking. They are trying to coast on the coat tails of the past. Yes, at one time members of Churches of Christ were known for their biblical knowledge and their ability to quote book, chapter, and verse. It used to be said that if you wanted to know where something was found in the Bible, just ask a member of the Church of Christ. One shudders to imagine the response today to such inquiries.

Listen to the apostle Peter: "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 Pet. 3:15). One has to wonder how many children of God today can defend what they profess to believe.

Peter says that we should always be ready, i.e., to always be prepared to answer or defend the faith. That is going to be difficult if one isn't even sure if 1 Corinthians is in the Old or New Testament.

Preparation for such a task can only come through constant and active Bible study. "Be diligent ("study", KJV) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). Do you remember the praise given to the Bereans? "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

The modern cry is, "I am too busy to study the Bible like you suggest." Listen, if one is that busy, then something needs to change. Priorities need to change for sure!

We often express concern that brethren don't know enough to teach others. And it may well be, they don't know enough to remain faithful! Remember the sad words of the Hebrews writer, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food" (Heb. 5:12).