

Sermon Notes – 01.05.2025 – Are You Ready for 2025?

By God's Grace, We Can Say, "Yes."

If the Lord Wills – Plans are Good, But Remember to Call on God Who Determines the Outcome

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." **14** Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. **15** Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

Beware of Pride in the Face of Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. **12** Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

Be Prepared – Be Alert

Matthew 24:42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

Luke 12:35-36 "Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. **36** "Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; **5** for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; **6** so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

Prepare Your Minds for Action – "Fix" Your Hope Completely on the Grace to Be Brought to You

1 Peter 1:13-15 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, **15** but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

Seeking the Lord Brings Fruitfulness

Hosea 10:12 Sow with a view to righteousness, Reap in accordance with kindness; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD Until He comes to rain righteousness on you.

Two Kinds of Fallow Ground

Ground Reserved for a More Fruitful Season & Ground Grown Hard through Lack of Use

It is Time to Use the Reserve – It is Also Time to Break Up the Hardened Areas of Our Heart

If We Repent of the Things That Harden Our Heart – Like Pulling Weeds and Casting Out Stones

2 Timothy 2:21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

We Don't Always Get Early Notice – Sometimes It's Convenient – Sometimes It Catches Us Off Guard

2 Timothy 4:1-2 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Focus on Being “ready in season *and* out of season.”

Ready With the Word, Prayer, Worship, and Fellowship – “It is Time to Seek the Lord.”

In the Word and Ready to Seek the Lord in His Word

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

In Prayer and Ready to Seek the Lord in Prayer

Psalms 145:18-19 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. **19** He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.

Worshipping God from the Heart – Ready to Call on the Lord and Serek Him

Every Act of Worship Begins with God Revealing Himself to Us

It forms the Substance of Our Relationship with God.

The Abundance of Our Heart is the Substance of Our Worship

Living in Fellowship with Christ and One Another – Ready to Walk Together in Life, Calling on the Lord

That we are engaged with one another in fellowship raises the probability that we will engage the unbelieving in similar fashion. Fellowship as witness –

Galatians 6:9-10 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. **10** So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Be Ready to Answer the Unbelieving

1 Peter 3:15 “...to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;