

I AM NOW READY

II Timothy 4:6-8

Intro:

- A. We all have some important dates in our lives.
 - 1. The passing of time drives us toward them.
 - 2. We cannot decide to by-pass them.
 - 3. If we do, we may pay grave consequences.

- B. We can meet these dates in one of two states.
 - 1. Prepared (ready).
 - 2. Unprepared (not ready).

- C. The most important date is the one we have with death
 - 1. **Amos 4:12 - "...prepare to meet thy God..."**
 - 2. This preparation is more than being saved.

- D. Paul affirmed that he was ready. I am now
 - 1. This is not bragging on ourselves, it is recognizing the work of Jesus Christ as sufficient.
 - 2. The assurance of being ready arises from two sources, the Bible and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit begs you to believe that God is faithful.
 - 3. Are you ready?

I. The Apostle Paul Was Ready. Vs 6

- A. "For I am now ready to be offered..."
 - 1. "Ready" = ηδη = "already".
 - 2. "Offered" = σπεινδω = "to pour out", "to make a libation".
 - 3. "For I am already being offered..." - ASV
 - 4. "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering" - BER
 - 5. Paul's life was a steady offering to God!

- B. "...and the time of my departure is at hand."
 - 1. "Time" = καιρος = "the right time".

2. "Departure" = αναλυσις = "lifting up" The word is also used of soldiers breaking camp or of a ship lifting its anchor.
3. "Hand" = εφιστημι = "to place one's self upon".
4. "And it is time for me to break camp" or "it is time for me to raise the anchor and sail away"

II. The Things Paul Did To Get Ready.

- A. Paul accepted God's plan of salvation.
 1. He could have trusted the coming one.
 2. He could have accepted the pre-figured one
 3. He did accept Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph as his Lord.

- B. Paul surrendered his life to God.
 1. "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Acts 9:6
 2. "...and was baptized" Vs 19

- C. Paul received instruction.
 1. He was taught of the Lord as an apostle I Cor 9:1
 2. He received instruction from others.
 3. He was guided by the Holy Spirit.

- D. Vs 7a "**I have fought a good fight,...**"
 1. "Fought" = αγων = "struggle".
 2. "I have fought in the good war".
 3. Paul had written earlier, "fight the good fight"
 4. "Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"

- E. Vs 7b "**...I have finished my course,...**"
 1. "Finished" = τελω = "to complete", "to arrive at the goal", "to cross the finish line".
 2. "Course" = δομος = "foot race".
 3. "The course that I was set I have finished" - PHI

- F. "**...I have kept the faith:**"
 1. "Kept" = τηρω = "to watch over", "keep an eye on"
 2. "Faith" = "The Faith".
 3. "I have watched over the faith".

III. Paul Was Ready For Judgment.

- A. Vs 8a "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,..."
1. "Henceforth" = λουπον = "finally", "hereafter".
 2. Paul's rewards are after his departure, they were not in his lifetime, neither are ours.
 3. "And now there is reserved for me a crown, a garland, the token of righteousness." The crown that is given to the righteous that do right.
- B. "...which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day:..."
1. Jesus will be the Judge. John 4:22-23
 2. The specific event. Romans 14:10-13
 3. The basis of it. I Corinthians 3:11-15
- C. "...and not to me only,..."
1. "Yet not alone unto me" - RHM
 2. "And not just to me" - TAY
 3. Then to whom also?
- D. "...but unto all them also that love his appearing."
1. "Love" = αγαπηκοσι = "having loved".
 2. "Appearing" = επιφανεια = "the shining upon".
 3. "Who have loved the thought of His appearing"
WEY
- E. We may have either of two emotions in regard to the Lord's appearing.
1. That of love.
 2. That of shame I John 2:28 -
"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."

IV. Are You Ready To Break Camp?

- A. Who are you trusting for salvation?
1. Your own self?
 2. Yourself and Jesus?
 3. Jesus only!

- B. How have you been baptized?
 - 1. There is only one way.
 - 2. Immersion, after salvation and by proper authority
- C. Are you in the good fight?
- D. Have you finished the race?
- E. Have you watched over the faith?