

ALWAYS BE READY GOING AFTER THE HARVEST SERIES

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TEXT: 1 Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

INTRO: Paul says to be ready in season and out of season to preach the word in 2 Timothy 4:2. But, Peter says it differently.

Peter, one of the twelve apostles of the lamb, was called by Jesus to be a fisher of men. **Mark 1:16-17** “As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

We know that the Great Commission was given to the apostles and then passed down to all believers. So, all the writers of the New Testament were cognizant of the Great Commission.

We also know that Peter was the main apostle that spoke on the day of Pentecost and three thousand men (not including women and children) became followers of Jesus in one day. Peter was an Apostle-Evangelist. Many scholars believed that Peter died during the reign of Nero sometime in 64-65 AD. So, 1 Peter was written sometime before that. He had learned as a disciple from Jesus, then the Holy Spirit, and from 30 plus years of experience how to effectively evangelize. Peter gives us three truths to follow:

THREE TRUTHS

I. JESUS IS LORD

A. SANCTIFY CHRIST AS LORD IN YOUR HEARTS 1 Peter 3:15a

1. BE HOLY AS HE IS HOLY 1 Peter 1:16

2. 1 Peter 2:9 But you are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God’s* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

3. “Your identity determines your effectiveness in ministry.” Ché Ahn

4. You hear from the Lord when your heart is clean.



5. You will obey Him when he directs you to share.

II. CHARACTER AND CONDUCT - WE MUST DEMONSTRATE THE GOSPEL AS WELL AS DECLARE IT

A. 1 Peter 3: 15 “...always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.”

1. 1 Peter 2:12 “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God “in the day of visitation.”

2. Matthew 5:16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

3. Story of Billy and Isabella

4. Trash collector story.

III. ALWAYS BE READY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

A. 1 Peter 3:15, “always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you...”

B. THE ESSENCE OF OUR MESSAGE

1. THE LAW- Romans 3:19-20 “Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are ¹under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and ^call the world may become accountable to God; ²⁰ because by the works ¹of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.”

a. Romans 7:7b “I would not have come to know sin except ¹through the Law; for I would not have known about ²coveting if the Law had not said, ‘You shall not covet.’”

b. Rich Young Ruler

2. THE GOSPEL - 1 Corinthians 15:1-3 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved... ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...”

3. REPENTANCE AND FAITH - Matthew 4:17 “From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

In Mark 1:15 John the Baptist preached “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God ¹is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

