



New Living

Welcome!

We are glad to have you with us today and want you to feel comfortable as we enter into worship.

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Please come back and be with us anytime you have the opportunity!

Inside this issue:

Plan for our Upcoming VBS	2
Loving Our Enemies	3
Training Thyself	4
News & Notes	5
Meetings & Events	5
Today's Prayer List	5
Those Serving Today	6

How Will You Prepare?

As Jesus wrapped up His earthly ministry, He repeatedly spoke of our need to watch for His return. When that will take place is unknown. He said, *Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come*, Mark 13:33. After He comes, judgment will take place. On this day, every knee will bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, (Philippians 2:10-11). It is an appointment that every human being will keep. Are you prepared?

Think of the most important person you have ever had an opportunity to meet. How did you prepare for that occasion? In 2002, I had the opportunity to be in the presence of the President of the United States at Mt. Rushmore. It was an experience I will never forget. I pushed and pushed through the crowd to try to get close enough to meet and greet President George W. Bush. I got within about ten feet of him, before he had to leave. Even though I never met him that day, there was a good deal of preparation involved in being where he was. We had to get up especially early that morning in order to get through security in time. We had to dress

appropriately. On the drive down to Mt. Rushmore, I even constructed a short few sentences in my mind of what I would say to the President if I would be so fortunate to speak with him in person. As a consolation that day, I did get to meet with a United States Senator and Congressman. That was neat!

When we go to judgment, we will not stand before some other man, but our Creator, the God of the Universe! The Bible speaks of the tragedy of being unprepared for judgment. Do not be like the virgins in Matthew 25 who procrastinated and lost out on the opportunity to trim their lamps at the arrival of the groom. Do not be like the ones mentioned in 1 John 2:28 who will *shrink away from Him at His coming*. Prepare now...while you still can! This involves ordering our lives around matters of spiritual concern. It involves putting off the ways of the world. Finally, it involves our total devotion to God every day of our lives. *Abide in Him, so that when He appears, (you) may have confidence*, 1 John 2:28.

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