



**Explore God:  
Be Prepared!**  
*September 10, 2023*

What challenges do you realize in trying to be a Christian today?

Why is being personally prepared important today?

*1 Peter 3:13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.** But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.*

1. Prepare your \_\_\_\_\_: Your \_\_\_\_\_

a. Set apart \_\_\_\_\_ as Lord!

- *Matthew 10:32 "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.*

b. Know the reason for \_\_\_\_\_ hope!

- *Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering*

*produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

**c. Keep a clear \_\_\_\_\_**

## **2. Prepare your Heart: Your Attitude**

**a. Do not be \_\_\_\_\_**

- *Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

**b. Be \_\_\_\_\_**

- *1 Corinthians 4:12-13 When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; 13 when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.*

**c. Be \_\_\_\_\_**

- *1 Timothy 3:7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

## **3. Prepare your \_\_\_\_\_: Your \_\_\_\_\_**

**a. You are doing \_\_\_\_\_.**

- *Luke 15:7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*

**b. Be ready to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- *1 Peter 4:12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

**c. Be ready to \_\_\_\_\_!**

*NEXT WEEK: Explore God! – Be prepared to answer, “Does life have purpose?”*

*Miss a week of the series “Explore God” Go to [www.crosspointgtx.com](http://www.crosspointgtx.com) Live Stream page to find sermon archives!*

*Also, don't miss the devotional emails this week to build on today's message!*

*(Go to [crosspointgtx.com](http://crosspointgtx.com) and click on "Daily Devotions" – bottom left.)*

## **MY PERSONAL NOTES**

### **SERMON REFLECTIONS: Apply to My Life**

**The thought the Spirit is leading me to focus on is:**

**The change the Spirit is leading me to work on is:**

**The action the Spirit is prompting me to take is:**

**My prayers today are:**

**Someone I would like to bless with today's message:**

## DIGGING DEEPER: Apply to My Life

**Scripture:** *(Use one from the message this week)*

**Observation:** *(What stood out about this verse? What do you notice?)*

**Application:** *(How can you apply this verse in your life today? How can you live in light of this truth?)*

**Prayer:** *(Turn your thoughts into prayer. Ask the Lord to show you how to believe and live this verse. Pray for people and situations in your life.)*