

August 08, 2018

Sermon Title: *Are You Prepared?*

Primary Scripture:

1 Peter 3:15 (NRSV)

¹⁵Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

Big Idea:

Prepare to declare

Prepared to DO GOOD

1 Peter 3:8-13 (NRSV) ⁸Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰For “Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. ¹²For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” ¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

The Mission of Clearbranch UMC is
to ENGAGE people through relational ministry,
to EQUIP disciples for Christ and
to EMPLOY their gifts through missions.

The Vision of Clearbranch UMC is Transformed Lives offering the Transforming Love of Christ.

Prepared to SUFFER

1 Peter 3:17-22 (NRSV) ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Prepared to GIVE AN ANSWER

1 Peter 3:14-16 (NRSV) ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

Challenge Questions:

What good are you preparing to do?

For what are you willing to suffer?

What has Christ done in you?

How will others see Christ in you?

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