

Why Be Prepared

Intro: I know a couple of guys who LOVE to fish- Let me tell you about them

-First one is awesome, caught more on his lines & in his nets than ANY fisherman alive today. -Got the right bait.... Dangles it just in front of them, teasing, tempting....sets the hook.... so many BARBS on hook....only a VERY FEW ESCAPE.... IT'S THE SADDEST THING... once he's caught the fish...throws them on the bank and loves to watch them wiggle squirm, suffer & die....then he laughs and catches some more. The Fisherman's name is SATAN -Caught more fish than anyone, even GOD himself! (most of the world is HIS) --He has the best Stink bait money can buy (friends, money, girlfriend-boyfriend, peer-pressure.....and many People bite HARD, swallow his lies HOOK LINE & Sinker! -Once he's got cha, throws you far enough away from the water of life, that it's hard to get back into it....and he loves to watch you die....

-Second Fisherman is Another Kind of Fisherman.... -Uses Different Bait. He offers Peace, Happiness, Kindness, Shelter & Love. -To those fish who will nibble at the bait, gives them more until they are filled. -Takes them out of the muddy water & they live in an aquarium...sheltered from the other fisherman. -He takes care of his fish, and uses them to convince other fish NOT TO BITE at the old stink -bait of the DEVIL~ WHAT'S HIS NAME?? JESUS

This weeks Topic... Being READY (being Prepared) to BATTLE SATAN... All of us need to be prepared~

Key Scripture This Week: Ephesians 6 10-18 (Paul begins this passage with an exhort

vs. 1-4... NOW I KNOW, that there's not a single child present in this room who doesn't do everything their mom's & dad's tell them to do RIGHT? We're lucky, under the OLD LAW, child who even back-talked was taken out to the city gates and stoned! (no rocks left in our neighborhood) MY DAD....used to make us pick our own switch....our yard didn't have trees had telephone polls~!

Vs. 5-9 gives sound advice to rest of the people (slaves & masters)

Vs. 10... BE STRONG in the LORD.... When I was a kid, always thought it would be nice to be as strong as superman, be as fast as superman, (laser eyes, keen hearing) It's LIKE a dream come true for me! (GOD WANTS us to be strong) in HIM NOT EASY...must be prepared! -Some of you are already salivating, drooling about the age when you can drive your own car.... 1st, most take drivers ED, studying and watching films... 2nd, some brave adult will sit in the car with you as you begin to learn to maneuver the car... Finally, you will have to take a test...and pass it!

NO ONE, get's their license without being PREPARED!

NO ONE can stand against that awesome FISHERMAN...the DEVIL unless they are prepared as well.

VS. 11... Why prepare... 1 Peter 5:7-8 "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

We prepare, so we CAN STAND against the TRICKS the DEVIL will play against the lies that he will use against the hatred that he spreads against the traps that he will set....

Vs. 12.. Don't be fooled. -The enemy is not the kid on the playground who pushes you around -Enemy is not your parents who tell you NO, when you wanna hear a YES!!!!!! -----I used to ask one parent, then ask the other---- -Enemy is not your teachers who push you and drive you to excellence!

THE ENEMY IS SATAN...and he DESIRES YOU!!!!

Jesus said to His disciple Peter "SATAN desires to sift you like wheat"

Satan wants you to ROLL OVER and give up....

-Realize lot of kids take the easy way out...walk down his path. -Drugs, Pot (going to offer it to you) - Alcohol (friends will say...try it you'll like it...if not, keep trying! -Cursing, swearing, Lying to your parents... EVERY one else is doing it! Don't you want to be COOL??? -EVEN Suicide, realize 2nd most common form of death for people under the age of 18... SATAN wants you to give up.

2 Years ago, four funerals 10 days, (odd) 1 -members of the Church - His childhood friend - pills 2 - Lady from Church, her cousin shotgun, taken his life 3 -My favorite cousin, took a rope in his basement and Hung himself 3 terrible, needless deaths then FINALLY 4- friend, 35 year old man, died suddenly in the hospital (His death was different, he HAD NO CHOICE)

Others took the easy way out....

WE MUST be prepared against Satan He is a powerful foe...this week we will...

Read Verses 13-18...

Learn how to prepare ourselves, especially while we are YOUNG

Solomon said these words:

Eccl 12:1: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Honor the Lord while you are still young enough to enjoy life, START NOW!

In Him,
Byron