

Be Prepared

Commentary for March 17, 2011 — Be Responsible for Yourself and Loved Ones

The recent earthquakes, tsunami, and nuclear emergency in Japan, and the effects on the Pacific basin lands bring home the need to prepare for disaster — wherever you may live.

God wants us to be responsible for ourselves, our families, and for those around us. It is a mature and loving way to act:

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house [household], he has denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

• **1 Timothy 5:8**

This includes during emergencies, present and future. The sentiment in the King James Version is put forth even more strongly in the Concordant Version:

“Now if anyone is not providing for his own, and especially his family, he has disowned the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.”

• **1 Timothy 5:8, Concordant Version**

“Be Prepared”

The motto of both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts is: “Be Prepared.” This is a good idea, even for everyday life. Military doctrine knows that being prepared and trained, allows for clearer thinking in emergencies because some of the necessary basics of life have been planned for in advance. Emotional upset and even panic is minimized by planning and thinking about solutions to potential problems.

One place to start is the U.S. government FEMA website “[Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness.](#)” It has common sense information about general and basic preparedness details. The implication is, of course, that government will not be able to rescue or take care of you, as we have seen in large emergencies of the recent past. Such aid takes time, if it comes at all. Remember: planning helps reduce worry and apprehension.

For other information “Google” or search on the internet using the terms “emergency preparedness.” If you do not have access to the internet, then go to your local library and ask the reference librarian about publications for emergency preparedness. Make a copy.

www.Stratfor.com, a geopolitics website with insights into political, economic, and military developments, has some useful information that they provide to companies and institutions in their message of March 16, 2011:

“A basic plan consists of three critical factors, the first being a prearranged rendezvous point for family or loved ones. The second factor is a communications plan in the event of cell phone tower failure; ... The third factor is having a primary and secondary route of escape. ...

Don't expect your government or your company to help you for 48 to 72 hours. Make a plan for yourself and know when it is time to execute it and get out."

- ***"Above the Tearline: Emergency Evacuation Plans"***¹

Trust in God, not man

I know that many of you already plan for such things. In times of trouble these verses (among many) are relevant. At times God chooses to rescue us. Consider these two passages by King David that refer to events in his life, yet they are applicable to everyone:

"I waited patiently for YHWH; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he has put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in YHWH. Blessed is that man that makes YHWH his trust."

- ***Psalm 40:1–4***

"In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. Your vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto you. For you have delivered my soul from death: will you not deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?"

- ***Psalm 56:11–13***

"It is better to trust in YHWH than to put confidence in man [adam]. It is better to trust in YHWH than to put confidence in princes [nobles]."

- ***Psalm 118:8–9***

There are no guarantees that you will be saved in times of trouble. Remember, it is God's sovereign choice whether you are delivered from danger or not. After all, everyone dies.² God may or He may not choose for you to be rescued. In a time of disaster it may be your time to die and await (without consciousness or existence) the resurrection from the dead:

"Put not your trust in princes [nobles], nor in the [a] son of man [adam], in whom there is no help [Hebrew: salvation]. His breath [man's breath] goes forth, he returns to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. Happy is he that has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in YHWH his God."

- ***Psalm 146:3–5***

The word "salvation" above in verse 3 refers to physical salvation from dire events, not salvation after death. Of course, some, perhaps many will try to help you and others, but expectation of help from man should not be your best hope. Your hope should be in YHWH:

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, that is superior to every frame of mind, shall be garrisoning your hearts and your apprehensions in Christ Jesus.

- ***Philippians 4:6–7, Concordant Version***

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¹ Fred Burton, www.Stratfor.com, accessed March 16, 2011.

² There will be believers who will be alive at Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18), but that is in the future and very few living today (even infants) will be among those who survive.