

Real Christians Prepare their Hearts

In our lives we must make sure that we are truly ready to receive the blessing of God. That preparation is not by making our houses and barns bigger to hold the stuff. The preparation is not by planning what we will do with the blessings when they come. The preparation we need is to make the heart ready to be used by God.

Scripture(s): James 1:19-27

I. The first piece of the true Christianity puzzle which makes us ready to receive what God has for us is a listening _____. We must come to the place where we don't have to always be the _____ of our arguments.

✓ Become known for being a _____ listener.

II. The second piece of the true Christianity puzzle which makes us ready to receive what God has for us is _____ God's Word. It is when our heart is _____ that we are ready to receive the Word.

2 Peter 3:14-16 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

✓ Prepare your heart to receive God's Word by being honest about your _____.

III. The third piece of the true Christianity puzzle which makes us ready to receive what God has for us is following _____. _____ the word. If you do not, then you _____ yourself.

✓ Hear the Word and put it into _____.

IV. The fourth piece of the true Christianity puzzle which makes us ready to receive what God has for us is caring about the "_____ things". Those who truly care about God show it by caring about God's _____.

Luke 16:10-11 10 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. 11 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?

Luke 19:17 "And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.'

1 John 3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

✓ Find God's priorities and make them _____.

Remember this - Christians have put their struggles in perspective and are truly ready to be used by God when their faith goes beyond _____, convenience, or success.

Our challenge: Put all the pieces of _____ into your life.

March 7, 2021

"His Mercy Is More"

"He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought" 52

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" 61

* Pastoral Prayer & Children's Sermon *

"I'll Fly Away"