**ALWAYS BE PREPARED**

Pastor Morris Barnett

February 23, 2016

**1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) – Memory Verse**  
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.

**1 Peter 3:13-22 – Scripture Reading**

I'd like to say up front: If there is a mistake that can be made in witnessing, I've made it. In fact, when I think back on some of my early evangelism efforts, I feel a twinge of embarrassment. I wish I could hunt down some of these people and get a chance to do it right, or at least apologize. My mistakes were caused partly by misguided zeal, partly by poor training, and partly by the fact that I thought I was right about everything all the time. As a result, some of my these experiences were nothing short of disastrous. Not always, but sometimes — and enough to cause me to become discouraged.

1 Peter 3:15 is a seminar on how to share your faith. Today, we'll look at the first part of the verse: Always be prepared. What does this mean? What does it mean to always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have? Here are three things you can do to prepare yourself to witness to others

1. **Know What You Believe**

**The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.

The third day he arose from the dead and he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick [living] and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church [note: that's catholic with a "little c" referring to the universal church consisting of all followers of Christ], the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

1. **Know Your Testimony**

**John 9:25 (NLT2)**   
 “I don’t know whether he is a sinner,” the man replied. **“But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!”**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)**   
Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

1. **Know That God Will Give You A Chance To Witness**

**John 4:35 (NLT2)**   
You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.

People are open to the Gospel when they are in times of;

**Trouble**

**Tension**

**Transition**

Sharing your faith is not a situation where you're constantly trying to force things to happen...where you're bulldozing your way into conversations and preaching to people who would rather be doing anything in the world but listening to you.

It's not a matter of trying to shove square pegs into round holes. **Sharing your faith is simply telling your story about who you love and what he's done for you.** It's good news, and it offers people hope. People are desperately seeking hope, and they're eager to hear good news. They don't want to be preached at, they don't want to be condemned, they don't want to be on the receiving end of a polished gospel sales presentation — but they do want hope.