

WHY SHOULD I PREPARE?

And is it Biblical?



Introduction

Years ago I felt compelled to prepare. I ignored it for a while but it kept popping up. I eventually began to look into it a bit to see what exactly preparedness was. This brought more questions from my wife and I, questions about why I was feeling compelled, why I might need to prepare and what exactly preparedness was. There were also biblical questions; by preparing, am I showing a lack of faith, or sinning?

These questions and many others started my wife and I down a path of much research, long discussions, prayer and seeking the Lord. Some years later, I felt compelled again, this time I knew it was the Lord. I felt compelled to start a blog to help other believers who might have the same questions find some peace. I started [Prepared Christian](http://PreparedChristian.net). During the years between discovering it was God calling me to prepare and starting [Prepared Christian](http://PreparedChristian.net) I amassed a wealth of information and decided I might be able to help not only answer some questions about whether preparedness was a sin, but actually help people learn to prepare as well.

It is my hope that this eBook will help answer some questions, both on why you should prepare as well as some of the faith-based questions. If at any time you have any questions or comments please e-mail me Chris@preparedchristian.net

I'm a very analytical person who leans heavily on logic. I mention that to help you understand that the reasons I think we should all prepare are not far-fetched. I'm not a conspiracy theorist and don't wear a tinfoil hat. I try to find legitimate sources to back up what I say and many of these will be available in the appendix.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this eBook, I hope it is a blessing to you. This is a free eBook, please feel to share it with anyone whom you think might benefit from it.

CHRIS RAY

<http://preparedchristian.net/>

Being Prudent in Today's World



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“

I want to thank God for the prompting to start Prepared Christian.net and for the wisdom He has imparted. I also want to thank my beautiful wife who is my sounding board and editor. Without the two of you, neither the website nor this eBook would be possible.

”



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What is Preparedness?

To start I would like to share an article I wrote for my friend Dene Brocks website, [Country Consultant](#) it [explains what preparedness is](#) and covers a couple of the reason why we should prepare and I'll share more later.

Why Should You Prepare

From being mentioned by popular radio talk show hosts, to television shows on the subject, preparedness or “prepping” has become a popular concept recently. But what exactly is prepping and why should you take the steps to become prepared?

Preparedness is the act of looking at what could negatively impact one’s life and finding ways to mitigate or remove it. Some of these things could include: job loss, power outages or bigger events such as hurricanes, terrorism or even economic downturn.

There are five basic human needs that Prepper’s (those who prepare) work toward making sure are met. It doesn’t matter the situation, people need food, water, shelter, security and energy. Prepper’s make sure those needs are met further into the future.

To meet these needs, shelf stable food is often stored and water is often stored or a means to purify it is on hand. Shelter is often taken care of with the 50’s era fallout shelter. (Just checking to see if you were paying attention.) It is actually often taken care of within the home, though a prepper might be more prepared to endure in his home without electricity. Security is approached from different angles, from practicing situational awareness, having a security system or even carrying and being trained in the use of firearms. Energy needs can be met by having extra batteries, a generator or even a full blown solar panel system with all the trimmings.



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Why should you prepare? I submit that there are already many things you are actively preparing for, on an ongoing basis. For instance, every time you put your seatbelt on, you are doing so in case you get into an accident. Chances are that you also have insurance of varying types, such as auto, medical, dental, optical, life and others. These are all part of being prepared.

For many, preparing for other types of unexpected emergencies, whether small or large, is just the next logical step.

Also for most of human history people have lived a preparedness focused existence. They didn't call it "prepping" but simply called it "living". For most of our history we have had to hunt and gather and store enough food to make it through the winter or even longer. Only in modern history have we had the ability to go to the grocery store 24/7. Grocery stores use what is called a "just in time delivery", only carrying enough perishable supplies on their shelves to last a few days without getting re-supplied by a delivery truck.

There are so many possible breaks in the supply chain that most people are not aware of; from weather conditions where the food is grown, to oil prices. Oil is used in almost every part of food production, from transportation to get the farmer/worker to the fields, fuel for the tractor to till the soil, the plane or other machinery to spray the crop, delivery to the supply depot, depot to destination costs and finally for the packaging. If the cost of oil rises, the cost of almost everything else isn't far behind.

Many people choose not to prepare because they believe there is nothing to worry about. However, according to [Time Magazine](#):

"In fact, 91% of Americans live in places at a moderate-to-high risk of earthquakes, volcanoes, tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, high-wind damage or terrorism, according to an estimate calculated for TIME by the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute at the University of South Carolina. But Americans have a tendency to be die-hard optimists, literally. It is part of what makes the country great-and vincible.



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“There are four stages of denial,” says Eric Holdeman, director of emergency management for Seattle’s King County, which faces a significant earthquake threat. “One is, it won’t happen. Two is, if it does happen, it won’t happen to me. Three: if it does happen to me, it won’t be that bad. And four: if it happens to me and it’s bad, there’s nothing I can do to stop it anyway.”

We can make a different choice; we can be proactive about the situations we potentially face and do what we can to minimize the impact those situations may have on our lives.

What Is a “Prepper”?



What is a “prepper”? To me a “prepper” is someone who prepares for a variety of possible things that could negatively impact their life. There are many other names that could go under the term “prepper”; survivalist, homesteader and conservationist, among others. There are some who live this way, but think of themselves as just prudent, not calling themselves anything at all.

Some of you may have balked at the term survivalist. I don’t mean the term the same way the media does. Are there extremists numbered among us? Without a doubt, but I would wager that there are extremists in just about any group. I would say that there are more extremists in the “occupy” camps across the country. I think the extremists that are “survivalists” get more attention because they do not like big government.



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Also since one of the five basic human needs is security, many in preparedness own firearms and the mainstream media nor the left likes firearms.

“Prepper’s” come from many walks of life. There are doctors, lawyers, teachers, preachers, construction workers, executives, and many other vocations and stations in life.

The term is unimportant to me, the actions taken to provide for my family is.



What does it mean to prepare?

My approach to preparedness is to prepare for the things that are most likely to happen, the things that impact hundreds of thousands of people every year. These things include power outages, ice storms, job loss, hurricanes, earthquakes and many more. Time Magazine said:

“91% of Americans live in places at a moderate-to-high risk” of these types of events.”

By preparing, we can become more equipped to handle the events, or even the events that are even less likely to happen, such as economic collapse, electromagnetic pulse, solar flares and others.

Being prepared is, first and foremost, a mindset. You realize that bad things can and do happen and you take responsibility for your family. This type of mindset makes you more independent, which leads to you being more self-sufficient.



Preparedness as a movement is fairly new, but people throughout history have lived this type of lifestyle. They called it “living”, not “preparedness”. Up until the technological advances of the last one hundred years, people didn’t have the luxury of running to the grocery store at a moment’s



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notice. The refrigerator wasn't an option so people stored food for a season or even longer, because they had to.



Though people throughout history have been more preparedness/self-sufficient out of necessity, I would say there are things that most people do that are preparedness/survival oriented.

How many have life, medical, optical, dental, auto or any other type of insurance? How many put seatbelts on when getting into a vehicle? Those are all things we do to mitigate the effects of something bad; whether an accident, cold

temperatures or something more ominous. Most humans will only take so much risk without a safety net.

A “prepper” simply sees the need for a larger net and more of them.

What are some reasons to prepare?

As I mentioned, when I started looking at preparedness I didn't know much about it or why I might need to prepare. I was the typical guy my age. I worked, contributed to the 401k, and had enough food in the house for the week. That was about as much thought as I gave to the future. I did keep up with current events but was the typical person from the Time magazine quote, “It won't happen to me, and if it does there is nothing I can do about it.”



Here are some of the discoveries I made when I really started looking.



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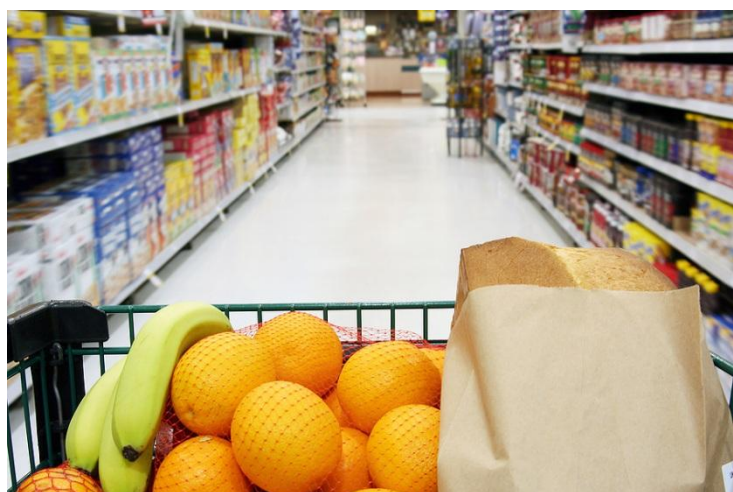
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The Average Family and the food delivery infrastructure.

The Average Family

I have seen it stated on several websites that the average family has less than a week's worth of groceries at home. I don't know if that is true, but a week to ten days sounds about right to me for an average. This is fine as long as the grocery store has food waiting for you when you next need to go shopping.



Just In Time Delivery

Grocery stores today have approximately enough perishable inventory to stock shelves for around three days without truck deliveries before running out. Just think back to the last big hurricane or blizzard on the east coast. It never fails that there are empty grocery shelves in most stores.

Supply Chain

This supply chain has many, many links. The following is a gross simplification but gets the point across. It starts with the local grower who uses herbicides and pesticides to make sure their yield is as high as possible. They have to hope for perfect weather, as one frost can mean ruin. This has happened a few times in Florida.

Next is delivery to the stateside buyer, which isn't terribly difficult but if the grower is in another country it often means a plane ride. Then there is distribution to the local market here in the USA, which is done by train and by truck.

I remember listening to talk radio in 2008 when gas prices were \$4.25 for unleaded and if memory serves, diesel was a good bit over \$5.00. The host was talking to someone who asked,

"at what point does the trucker decide the little bit of money he still gets to keep isn't worth it and just stays home?"



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The Price of Oil

Oil makes the modern world go round. Take a look around you right now. Almost every single thing your eyes see is/was impacted by the price of oil. Plastic, food additives, fertilizers, pesticides, synthetic fibers and so many other products have some component of oil used in their making.

And then there is the oil used to transport those products. The price of everything is

impacted by the price of oil, and the price of oil just continues to rise. In fact I have seen many estimates for 2012 to see \$5.00 a gallon for unleaded.

Part of the reason for the increase in the price of oil is demand. The emerging middle class in India and China can now afford automobiles so the demand has risen sharply. I don't see the population of any country that can afford to own automobiles deciding to stop using them. I also don't see a viable alternative to gasoline. While they may fluctuate, high prices are here to stay I'm afraid

The Economy

When I started prepping, the economic downturn of 2008 hadn't happened yet but things were far from healthy. I often balk when it comes to talking about the economy, as I'm far from an expert and probably use incorrect terms. The truth is, it doesn't take an expert to see that there is something wrong. It just takes someone who is paying a bit of attention and has a novices' understanding of how budgets work.



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The blame lies with both parties; one was using a hammer to pound the nails in the coffin, and the other using a pneumatic nail gun, just getting the job done faster.

Our economy runs on debt. There was always a balancing act going on, trying to keep it large enough to grow but small enough to give the illusion that we could/would pay it off. The tail end of President Bush's Presidency and all of President Obama's has removed any illusion. There is no possible way any economy can spend like this and survive. It is inevitable; our economy will collapse. It is simply a matter of how and when. Before you go to thinking I'm being dramatic, consider that our economy has collapsed before. It doesn't always mean hyper-inflation and Weimar Germany.

Spain, Greece, The United Kingdom have all had protests and riots due to austerity cuts. California's economy is the 8th largest in the world, larger than most countries, yet they seem to be in a permanent recession. We have been able to keep kicking the can down the road by the Federal Reserve adding trillions of fake money to the books (wiki-leaks showed that a lot of that money went to foreign banks). When this is done it makes the buying power of our dollar weaker, which, in turn, means we have to spend more money (inflation) to buy the same amount of goods.

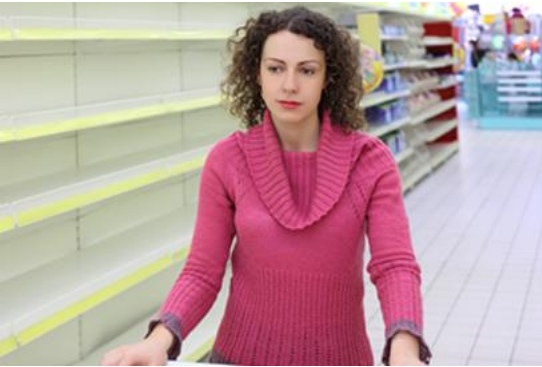
Every time we kick the can down the road, the next generation's future is ransomed. The economy is so bad in Greece that the youth there feel they have no future. There are no jobs and those that manage to get one are heavily taxed. I recently read that many are leaving the country to look for work and for their future.

We cannot keep injecting money to fix the problem. Sooner or later we will have to face the pain. When we do, do you think our citizens will be more or less willing to face the cuts than the citizens of Spain, Greece or The United Kingdom? Will there be shortages in goods and services? Will there be protests and riots?



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Food Shortages and Rising Prices

I wrote a blog post called [Food Shortages and Rising Food Prices](#). The post is me connecting the dots of why many countries in the world are seeing rising food prices, shortages and riots because of the two. In the blog post I use many links. Instead of listing them in this section I will just summarize my thoughts on why. All of the links I posted on the website will listed in the appendix.

The Emerging Middle Class

China and India, two countries with very large populations, have seen rapid growth of an emerging middle class. A large part of the diet of the poor is vegetable and rice based. The middle class can now afford to add meat to their diet. The problem this causes is that there is now more demand for grain to feed to livestock.

Running Low on Fresh Water (World Wide)

I had heard a few different comments that said a crisis we would see in the near future is fresh water. I didn't understand what that meant so I dug into it and found that it was in reference to aquifers. Aquifers are huge underground seas of fresh water. We have found that we can tap into these giant sources of fresh water and have used them to irrigate crops worldwide. The problem is that they're not refilling as fast as they're being depleted and in spots are running dry. Portions of the Ogallala Aquifer under the city of Happy, Texas have run dry.



[From the U.K.'s The Telegraph:](#)

"David Brauer of the US Agriculture Department agency, the Ogallala Research Service, 'we have drained enough water to half-fill Lake Erie of the Great Lakes.' Billions upon billions of gallons - or, as they prefer to measure it, acre-feet of water, each one equivalent to a football field flooded a foot



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deep - have been pumped. 'The problem,' he goes on, 'is that in a brief half-century we have drawn the Ogallala level down from an average of 240ft to about 80.' "

Sure we could revert to the way we used to irrigate crops just fifty years ago, but the world population is much higher than it was fifty years ago. We would need to devote much more land to food production and change the way we farm in order to feed the world at our current population.



The Way We Farm

Let me lead off with saying I am not judging farmers, I thank God for them. Farming is a profession that has seen fewer and fewer people. With that being said, there are some problems with the way we farm. Whether it's pressure to find a more ecofriendly fuel or a cheaper alternative to gasoline, many farmers have gone to strictly farming corn. You might remember the Jews being told in the Old Testament to alternate crops and to allow the

field to lie fallow for one year in seven. The reason for this is to replenish the nutrients in the earth. Different plants take different nutrients from the soil and by alternating the crops, they get replenished.

The way we farm now is to keep planting corn in rows, which does nothing to stop soil erosion. And since the soil has no nutrients in it, we have to add them with fertilizer. To make it easy to kill any pests, we plant corn that is genetically modified so that we can spray chemicals that will kill weeds but not the corn.

Instead of feeding people, that corn is used to make fuel. Again I'm not judging. Farmers do what they feel they must to make a living.

This is not my area of expertise, but there are other ways fo farming that might not be as lucrative, they are more sustainable and better for the earth. Crop rotation, with letting the earth rest as God commanded would be one way. Another is something called Permaculture, here is an article I wrote called "[An introduction to Permaculture; Building a Food Forest.](#)"



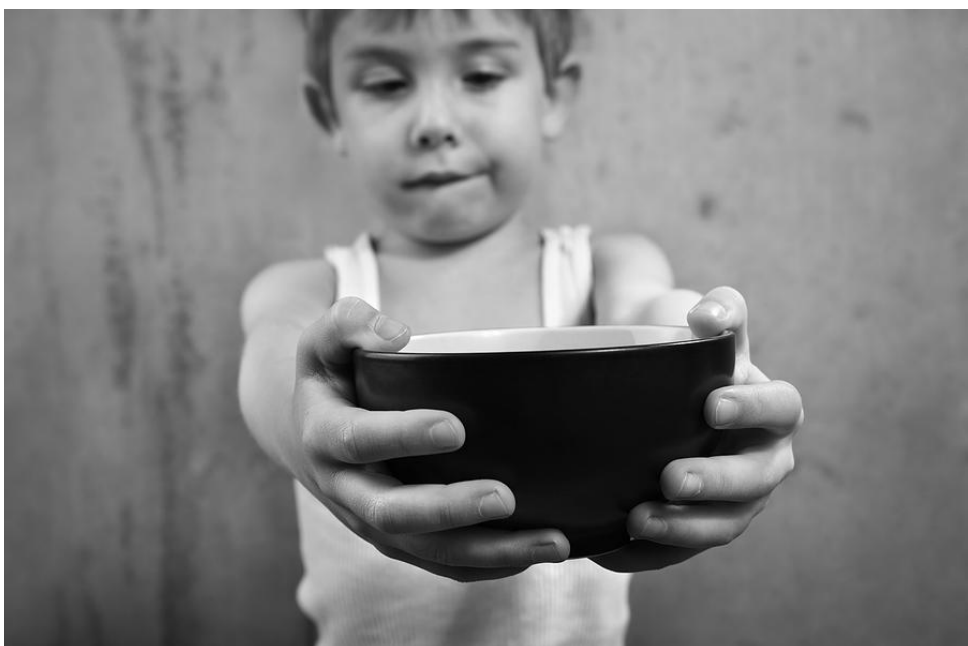
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What Does This All Mean?

In 2008 there were food riots in many third world countries. In many countries food costs 30% of their income. In contrast, here is the US and in many other first world countries, we pay 10-15% of our income. Because so much of their income went to food, when the price of staples increased, there was no more money to be spent.



In 2011 there were riots starting in Tunisia. A headline from The Telegraph on 30 January 2011 states "Egypt and Tunisia usher in the new era of global food revolutions". We all know that the riots and revolution didn't stop there. While it may not have all been about food, it did start out that way.

You may be thinking that as I stated, those things happened in third world countries. "We live in America or other first world nations, so this isn't a problem."

[From Sky.com](#)

"Speaking on Jeff Randall Live, senior global economist Karen Ward cautioned that the UK could experience the kind of food riots seen in other countries.

"Even in the developed world I think we have very, very low wage growth, so people aren't getting more in their pay packet to compensate them for food and energy, and I think we could see social unrest certainly in parts of the developed world and the UK as well."



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Could We See Shortages, Inflation and Riots here in America?

We're already seeing inflation on many foodstuffs and I believe they will continue to raise. In large part, manufactures have taken the loss and done a few sneaky things like make the size of the container smaller. So you pay the same amount, for less.

As far as seeing riots in the US or other first world countries, there were anti-austerity riots in the United Kingdom in 2011. Here in the USA we have the occupy protests, which have had some violence at

many of the locations across the country. While the protest and riots in both countries have more to do with class warfare than they do lack of food or that the prices have risen sharply, anti-austerity and food riots are close cousins.

We have an estimated 43 million people in America on food stamps, some may be taking advantage of the system but the majority of them are not. When they are incapable of feeding themselves without government assistance, how much wiggle room will they have if the price of food rises and the amount of food stamps does not?

When people are hungry, they take action. We may live in different parts of the world, but people are people. If they respond with riots and protests in third world countries, you can be sure they will here. After all, there is some protesting now over perceived economic injustice but they are still eating and are far wealthier than 99% of the world population.



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The Five Basic Human Needs

It doesn't matter where you live or even how much money you have, there are five basic human needs to be met. These needs are water, food, shelter, energy and security. It doesn't matter if everything is going perfectly and everything is going your way, or if all hell is breaking loose around you, these five things need to be met.

We prepare now with those five needs in mind, so that if "it" does start to hit the fan, our families are taken care of and we don't have to try and meet them in a time of crisis. This not only takes care of our family, it makes it so that there are more supplies available to meet the needs of those not as prepared.



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You're Already a Prepper

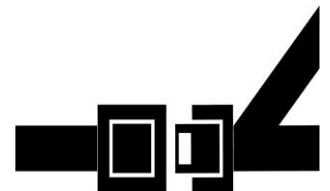
Certain animals have an instinct to prepare; bears gain as much fat as they can for hibernation, ants store food for winter, as do squirrels, beavers and a large number of other animals. They do it out of instinct. God gave us some of that as well but He also gave us the ability to use logic. We can foresee danger and determine what to do.

We know that we may become sick or injured, so we have health insurance. There are car accidents every day, so we have auto insurance. For cavities, we carry dental insurance. I'm sure you see where I am going.



It's code in many states, but even if it wasn't, many of us would have a smoke detector and possibly a fire extinguisher in our homes.

We also wear a seatbelt, just in case we happen to be unfortunate enough to get into a car accident.



You would be amazed at the number of things you do every day to keep you and your family safe. You lock your doors, check the mirror in your car before blindly changing lanes, go to work, put toxins out of reach of little ones, etc. God gave us instinct and the ability to think and use reason to avoid danger. You're already a Prepper!



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“Some of the Reasons People Don’t Prepare”

The last part in the “why should we prepare” section is an article I wrote called “[Some of the reasons people don’t prepare](#)”. As I mentioned above, you’re already a prepper to some extent, but Prepper’s and the preparedness/survivalist movement have been cast in an unfair light and this is my way of dispelling some false beliefs and correcting a few misconceptions.



There are a few reasons that people could give for not being prepared that I could absolutely get behind (Not like you need my approval). If it is a stumbling block for your faith, by all means, do not prepare. If your finances are stretched so tight that you have no money to put up anything extra, while you can still make preparedness plans, I do not think you should try and stretch your finances any thinner.

However, for most people, those are not the reasons. Here are some reasons that I have heard people give for not being prepared, with names that I came up with, mostly because I think I am clever.

Birds and flowers Matthew 6:25-34

In these verses, Jesus is telling of how much the Father loves the birds, but that they don’t worry about food or clothing. The key here is the word “worry”. This verse isn’t against preparing but against worrying.



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God Will Provide

There are some people who say that in an emergency, “God will provide”. I would like to ask them if they are trusting in the Lord to miraculously put food on their table today. If the answer is “yes” and He is, fine. If the answer is “no”, and He is not, I would ask what makes them think He will start in their emergency.

“If God gives you a watch, are you honoring Him more by asking Him what time it is or by simply consulting the watch?” A.W. Tozer

Not me and Not Here

People might not actually say this, but I know some believe it. Bad things only happen to other people, or in other places, not to them or in America. I think this type of thinking comes in large part from how blessed we have been as a nation. Aside from 9-11 and Katrina, most of us haven’t experienced a wide scale traumatic event and as horrible as those two were, not many of us were directly affected.

Ostrich (normalcy bias)

Another reason people don’t think they need to prepare is that they don’t want to think about the fallen-ness of this world. Seeing the evil we do to one another, day after day, in city after city and country after country can, for some people, be too much. It’s much more comfortable to keep the rose colored glasses on. But remember Proverbs 27:12:

“A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.”

By not being aware, Solomon calls them simpletons. There are days when the evil of this world has me homesick. At those times, I pray for those afflicted by the evil and ask God for strength and wisdom, but I still move forward, and stay vigilant.



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Fear of Being The Boy Who Cried Wolf

There are some who do not want to seem like alarmists. They differ from the ostrich in that they might see a possible danger, but won't sound the alarm in case they're wrong. The catch is that the boy who cried wolf eventually met a real wolf.

Anti-Doomer

The Anti-Doomer is afraid people might think they actually want the stuff to hit the fan. I have actually heard of a few people who think this of Prepper's, so I know it exists. I would ask them if they have car insurance. When they say "yes", I would ask them if they want to get into an accident. No one wants the pain we think is on its way, we just want to minimize how much it hurts us.

I can't afford it (but check out my new laptop)

If you truly can't afford prepping, that's one thing. If you can't afford it because you want "toys", well that's a completely different thing. It does take a financial commitment but that doesn't mean you have to break the bank. I could build a decent kit for \$20 at the dollar store. Would it be a great kit? No, but it would be a start.

I'm Not a Hoarder

Prepping is not hoarding. Prepping is what is done when there is plenty to be had, before an event. Hoarding is going to the store right before or during an event and buying more than you need. Prepping is actually a benefit to the system, because the people who are prepared are not a drain on the system.

Good Old Uncle Sam

Another argument is that the government will help take care of people in an emergency. The Government didn't do so well right after hurricane Katrina. They didn't do well at all. People went hungry and thirsty; many were taken to the Superdome. The conditions there quickly melted down; overburdened from too many people and not enough resources. Violence and rape broke out. There were days of lawlessness both in the Superdome and in the affected area.



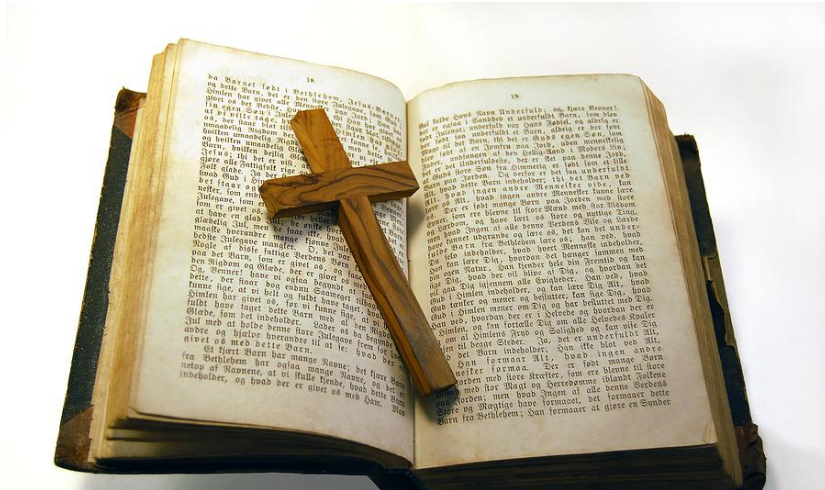
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Is Preparedness Biblical?

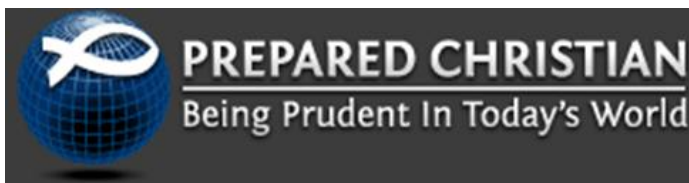
Once my wife and I decided that preparedness was a good idea, we wanted to see what scripture had to say about it. We both had questions about whether or not it was showing a lack of faith, or if it was possibly an outright sin. This section will cover the questions and answers that we found. These are questions I think every believer should ask and seek the Lord on for themselves.



Since some of you may not be familiar with Prepared Christian and my Christian Worldview, I'll lead off with that.

Christian Worldview

I believe that the Bible is the infallible word of God, inspired through the Holy Spirit and written by man. I believe that God sent His Son Jesus to reconcile humankind by taking on our sin, dying on the cross and rising again. I don't think Christians are perfect, just aware of how much we need a redeemer and thus forgiven.



I put every aspect of my life to the acid test of scripture. If it isn't scriptural I (eventually) get it out of my life. There are topics that I cover that are not in scripture. At those times I use

logic, the common sense God gave me and I look at other scripture that might deal with a similar issue.



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Is preparedness a sin?

As is the case with many things in life, preparedness could be a sin. It depends on why you do it and where your heart is. God is calling some believers to preparedness, while others may seek it out on their own. Both might be able to prepare with perfect submission, others might not be able to prepare without it soon taking over. At that point they are no longer being prudent, but are consumed with the “what if’s” and the “just in cases”, giving in to fear and letting the enemy take ground.



This is not solely about prepping. It’s about anything that we put between Jesus and ourselves. Any time there is something in our lives we refuse to lay down, to turn from if the Lord asks, or simply put as more important than Him, we now choose to walk in pride and in sin.

There have been times when I wasn’t sure if I was acting out of my own flesh. Psalm 139:23 comes to mind:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.”

If you’re not sure if you’re being led by your flesh, ask for the Lord to search you. Be willing to hear the answer and be listening for it.



WHY SHOULD I PREPARE?

And is it Biblical?



Self-Reliance

There have been times in my life when I've found myself in a bad place, spiritually. I was living in the flesh and didn't want to listen to the still small voice, so I didn't give it a chance to speak.

If you close yourself off and do not give God a chance to convict you, or you know you've been convicted and you choose to ignore it, this is when self-reliance becomes pride. To prevent this, make Him the center of it, ask and rely on Him for guidance. I pray often to make sure His will is done, not mine; that He blesses me with wisdom to know how to prepare and keep me from reacting out of fear.

In Mark 8:1 the disciples watch as Jesus breaks the seven loaves and few small fish and feeds four thousand people. Just fourteen short verses later the disciples realize they had only brought one loaf of bread with them in the boat. They take Christ's warning to "*Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod*" as a complaint that they had forgotten food. Jesus then reminds them that he had already fed five thousand and later fed four thousand; that He is fully capable of feeding them.

The reason I bring this up is that it is okay to be self-reliant and provide for your family (true self-reliance is all but a myth, but that's another story). However, pushing God aside because you don't need Him and will do it yourself is prideful and we all know how God feels about pride.

While I'm talking about this verse, there are also those who take the verse the other way. They say that God worked miracles and provided food for so many. Yes, yes He did and He could again at any time. But let me ask you this, how many meals did those people listening to Jesus preach that day miraculously get from God in their life? My point is, we should prepare, being wary of self-reliance and leaving room for miracles, but not counting on them.



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The Gift and Curse of Fear

There are many modern believers who think it is a sin to have any fear, but I think they're only half right. I believe that fear is a gift given from God to keep us safe. When we let fear rule our lives it becomes a curse and we enter into sin.

We should use fear to motivate us to take action when faced with danger. When I started preparing I did so because I was afraid that in my situation, if there was even a medium sized survival situation, I could not provide for my family for very long. I could have responded other ways. I could have let the fear shut me down or turn me into an Ostrich. I could have also let it take over, going into debt to purchase things I will never use or need but only gave me a false sense of control.

In short, don't be afraid of fear. Use it and don't let it use you.



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“Does storing food, water or other supplies show a lack of faith?”

For the vast majority of human history, humans have had to store food in one fashion or another, to make it through a season. The grocery store and the refrigerator are more recent options for storing food.



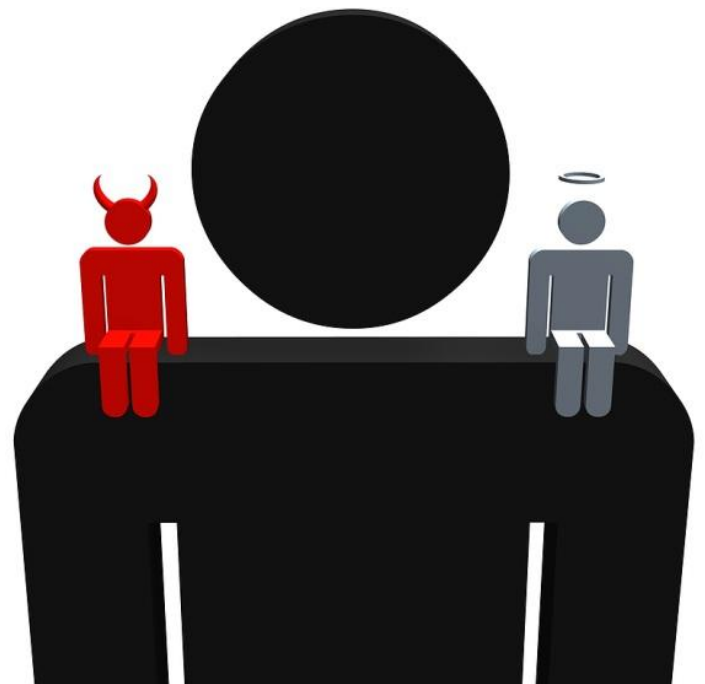
If it is a sin for us, was it a sin for humans that lived before the modern age?

Another question; what amount of food being stored would be considered a sin? Many people have enough food to last one to two weeks. Is that a sin? The point that I am trying to make is; is there a line that needs to be drawn and, if so, where do you draw it?

I personally don't think there needs to be one drawn. I thank God for the food I eat, every time I eat. What does it matter if I bought the food five minutes ago or five years ago? The point is my gratitude for it.

How do we know that this compulsion to prepare is from God and not from us, or from satan?

Here is an acid test that you can use on any topic that you have this question on.



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Pray and ask for wisdom and guidance

Pray for His will to be done and that He give you the wisdom to see what that is. James 1:5, 6 (NIV)

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”

Ask for confirmation

Ask, if it is God, that He keep pushing and not relent. If it is not Him, to please cast the concern far from you. Ask for confirmation from sources outside of yourself. This eBook could be one such source. On a related note, I have seen thousands of people come to PreparedChristian.net looking for answers to preparedness and faith. I know God is stirring people.

Who does it bring glory to? Mathew 12:25 - 28

25. Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. 26. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? 27. And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. 28. But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Does it bring anyone glory? If so, whom? When applying this question to preparedness, most Prepper's prefer to keep things quiet. If no one knows you're preparing it doesn't bring you glory. By being prepared there is a chance you could use your preparations to bring God glory at a later date, by helping someone in need.



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Satan won't ask you to do things that bring God glory. If there is no glory involved or, it gives God glory or, there is potential to bring God glory, it is probably safe to move forward. If it only brings you glory or could bring God shame, I, personally, would not move forward.

I have Asperger Syndrome. This makes it hard for me to "hear" from God. I bring this up because, most of the time, I get no direct answer from God. With the above test, I think you can determine if moving forward on anything is a sin or not.

My rule of thumb is that if it brings God glory or has the potential to, I move forward. If it brings me glory, but God is still glorified, I still move forward. If it only brings me glory or brings God shame, I don't move forward.



Aren't we to look to God to provide?

This is one of my favorite questions because when I asked myself the following question, I could have hit myself on the forehead and said "duh!" That question was simply, "am I looking for God to provide now?"

I answered yes, but all of my food is purchased at a grocery store. My clothes wear out and new ones are purchased at a department store.

If God is keeping your clothes from wearing out or providing you manna everyday then praise Him and keep doing what you're doing. However if you believe all of the money you earn is His and you use it to purchase your daily needs, then He is providing for you now. If you purchase supplies to prepare for the future, He is still providing for you. Just like He provided for Egypt with the seven years of stored grain during the famine that Pharaoh dreamed of and Joseph interpreted.

Here is a quote on the subject that I really like:

"If God gives you a watch, are you honoring Him more by asking Him what time it is or by simply consulting the watch?" A.W. Tozer



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The End Times

Mathew 24:36 (NIV)

"However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows."

I'm a big believer in general preparedness and not preparing for specific events. That being said, some believers use the End Times as a reason not to prepare. I guess their thinking is that "we won't be here anyway". I have my view on the rapture and will speak on the rapture soon. For now though, since "Only the Father knows" when His Son will come back, you have no idea what might happen between now and then.



Here is an article that I wrote called ["Eschatology And The Modern Church In America"](#)

Eschatology

For those who do not know what eschatology is, here is a great explanation [from Wikipedia](#). In short, Christian eschatology is the study of when Jesus comes again. It also involves the rapture of the saints.

This is one of many areas believers feel very strongly about. I ask that you read all of this section no matter your eschatology beliefs; you may be surprised what you find.



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Most Christians have an opinion on whether they think Jesus will return pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation or post-tribulation. I have seen this subject come up in some Christian forums and some people get a bit testy with those who have opposing views. Eschatology is not a salvation issue, so for the purpose of this site, your eschatology doesn't matter, nor does mine. The rapture has nothing to do with why we should prepare.

Jesus could very well come before the great tribulation, but between now and then, you could lose your job, the economy could collapse or there could be a pandemic that makes H1N1 look like a picnic. We prepare to mitigate these things and be the hands and feet of our Lord during and after; to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of friends, family, believers and non-believers alike.

If you believe the rapture is pre-tribulation and decide to prepare, add some Bibles and some literature explaining what is about to come for whoever may find your preps. Let them know it's not too late, that Jesus loves them enough to have given you the foresight to provide these supplies in their time of need.

Modern Day Christians In America

I say Modern Day Christians in America, because I know America. If you are a believer in another country, this very well could apply to you also.

Many Christians in America seem to have a belief that no tribulation will come our way. I'm not talking about the great tribulation. I'm talking about struggle, hard times, persecution, etc. I'm not sure where this belief comes from. Maybe we have had so much prosperity since the great depression that we feel immune or maybe we have come so far technologically that people don't remember what life less "plugged in" was like. Whatever the reason, it's foolish, if not dangerous, to think that hardship, persecution and suffering cannot or will not happen here.

Maybe we don't realize that most of the world is already in tribulation. Why will America be spared? God let Israel, His chosen people; suffer greatly for turning their back on Him multiple times. Has America not done the same or worse? Remember that Christians are grafted into their tree, not the other way around, as Romans 11:18 states:



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"But you must be careful not to brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. Remember, you are just a branch, not the root."

I am not saying that I think America will be punished or that we have been. What I am saying is: Why would God spare America?

Christians in America have been blessed with little persecution. Sure, we're made fun of by Hollywood but being teased in third grade got me ready for that.

It has been estimated that more Christians have been martyred in the last 50 years than in the church's first 300 years. Today in many countries around the world our brothers and sisters in Christ are being persecuted and martyred for their faith. For more information see <http://www.persecution.com/>

Corrie Ten Boom was a Christian woman whose family helped hide Jews during WWII. They were caught and sent to a Nazi concentration camp. Corrie wrote a letter in 1974 where she gave some very good advice on preparing for tribulation and persecution.

Modern believers

"How can we get ready for the persecution? First we need to feed on the word of God, digest it, make it a part of our being. This will mean disciplined Bible study each day as we not only memorize long passages of scripture, but put the principles to work in our lives."

"Next we need to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Not just the Jesus of yesterday, the Jesus of History, but the life-changing Jesus of today who is still alive and sitting at the right hand of God."

"We must be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is no optional command of the Bible, it is absolutely necessary. Those earthly disciples could never have stood up under the persecution of the Jews and Romans had they not waited for Pentecost. Each of us needs our own personal Pentecost, the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We will never be able to stand in the tribulation without it."



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“In the coming persecution we must be ready to help each other and encourage each other. But we must not wait until the tribulation comes before starting. The fruit of the Spirit should be the dominant force of every Christian’s life.”

We believers need to start training our spirits for tribulation of all kinds, strengthening our faith now, so that when any kind of hard time comes, we can stand firm in our faith

The Rapture

Whether you believe the rapture will happen pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, pre-wrath or post-tribulation, the truth of the matter is, in terms of preparedness, your viewpoint is irrelevant. As I stated, you should prepare in general terms and not with specific events in mind. You are then prepared for a multitude of things and if the one event you were preparing for doesn’t happen, you’re still prepared.

Even if the Lord comes back before the great tribulation, you should still prepare for what happens between now and then.

If the rapture should happen before the tribulation maybe He will guide someone to your preparations who will be blessed by them. You could add some bibles and some information on what is going to happen.



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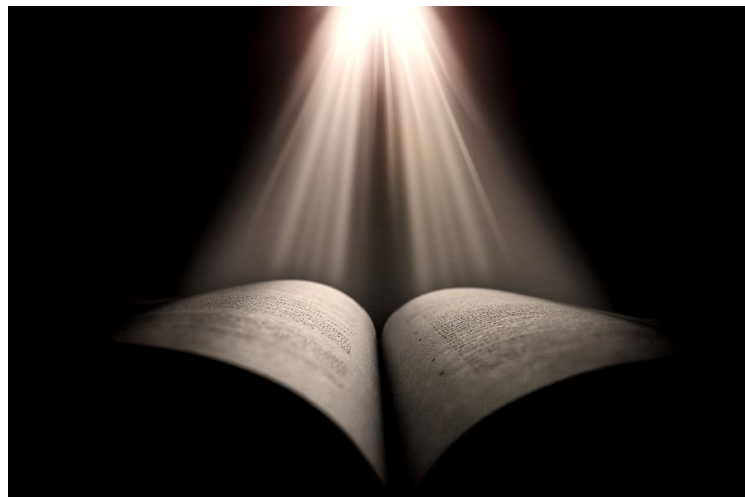
And is it Biblical?



Scripture Related to Preparedness

Up to this point I have shared my opinion on questions that my wife and I, as well as some readers have come up with. I have also shared the answers that I have discerned after much thought, prayer and discussion.

Now though, we move into the scriptures that are related to preparedness. I'll list the scripture and my interpretation of it, but it is what you think that matters. If you're unsure about whether or not God wants you to prepare, read this section over and pray about it. Don't just blindly take my word for it.



Genesis 6:21 (NIV)

"You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

God has just tasked Noah with building an arc big enough to fit two of every animal. Not only does Noah need to get the supplies to build the arc and then build it. He also has to get enough food for all of the animals and for his family.

This was a huge task in and of itself. Noah couldn't run to Costco and buy a few bags of rice and some canned beans. He couldn't order some freeze dried food from the net. He and his family had to grow, hunt, harvest and store all of this food.

Surly an all-powerful God could have just filled the arc with manna once it was built, but he specifically told Noah to plan ahead.



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Genesis 41:1-32 (NIV)

..." Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."...

The above is from Genesis 41:15. This is the story of Pharaoh having a dream that only Joseph is able to explain. Joseph is able to explain that there will be seven years of great abundance. From that abundance, they must store enough for the seven years of drought that will follow.



There are a couple points of interest to me here. First was; how God chose to reveal the need to store the excess. He gave a dream to Pharaoh, who had to seek counsel to find its meaning. I think that for some of us the decision to prepare isn't a difficult one, yet for others it causes much stress. It caused stress for me, and I went looking for others who might have had some guidance and insight. This is also why I created PreparedChristian.net.

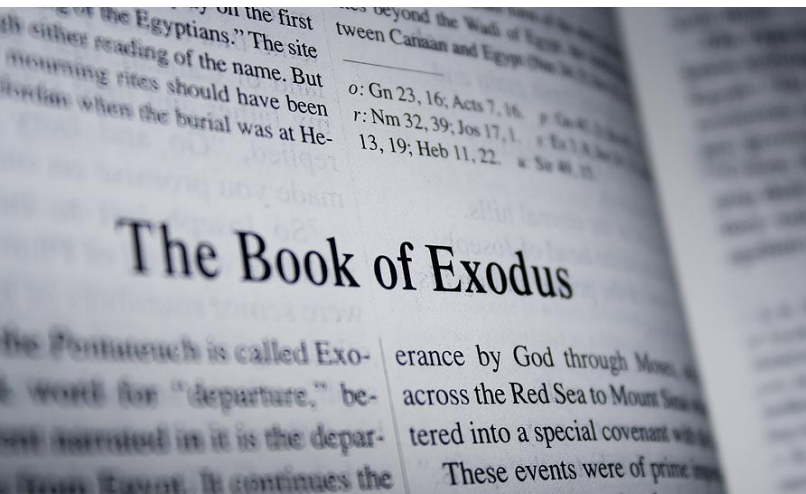
The second thing that stands out is the scope of what they were being asked to do. They had to store enough to feed an entire country including the livestock and they had seven years to do it.

I am willing to bet that there wasn't celebrating during those seven years of surplus. I imagine they tightened some strings and cut back some, to make sure they met their goal. Sometimes living a preparedness lifestyle means we do have to cut back, even when things look like they might be ok. This is because you never know when the next drought or famine will be.



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Exodus 12:35, 36 (NIV)

"The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing."

"The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians."

Here is another example of where an all-powerful God could have just told the Jews to flee and He could have provided for every need. This time, however, He told them to only ask the Egyptians for gold, silver and clothing. He provided food and water each day.

On a related note, I have thought about why He would have them ask for precious metals. One possibility is so that the Jews would have something to build the calf into a false idol later on. It could also be the metals used to cover the Ark of the Covenant. Another possible option is trading.

Proverbs 6:6 -11 (NLT)

"6:6 Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise! 6:7 Though they have no prince or governor or ruler to make them work, 6:8 they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter. 6:9 But you, lazybones, how long will you sleep? When will you wake up? 6:10 A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—6:11 then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber."



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This is one of those verses that is so cryptic, its meaning is lost on most of us. Yeah, not so much. This verse is the “kick in the pants” of the group. It says to watch the ants (that do nothing but prepare for the future) and learn from their ways and become wise; that we should prepare like the ants do, without being told, because it is in our best interest.



1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV)

“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

I have mentioned that there are five basic human needs. It doesn't matter what the situation is, they have to be met and according to Timothy 5:8 it is my responsibility to meet them.

Notice that there are no exclusions. It doesn't say that you can be excused in times of famine, if the economy takes a downturn or if there is a blizzard.

I take this verse seriously; it is my job to provide come what may. In order to provide for the above mentioned scenarios, one must use some forethought.

I guess one could run to the grocery store right before the blizzard hits but that sounds more like a grasshopper than an ant.



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Proverbs 27:12

*“A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions.
The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.”*

This verse is my favorite and where I got the tagline of “Being Prudent in Today’s World”. I also think that it is the most important verse related to preparedness. My wife and I have used this verse to make some very big decisions.

It says that a smart person sees danger and takes precautions now and a fool ignores the danger and suffers for it. So, to be smart, we have to know what danger is and be on the lookout for it so that we can take precautions against it.



If you’re still reading this eBook, then this verse is talking about you. A person who doesn’t see trouble on the horizon won’t spend this much time reading an eBook about whether or not you should prepare. So, congratulations, my prudent compadre!

Here is one way to use this verse; I spend a fair amount of time thinking about “what if” scenarios. Some of this is to look for potential dangers to me and my family, but some is also to think up things to write on for the site.

One potential danger that I have covered on the site, which is a possible danger every winter, is an ice storm. While I have underground power lines and gas heat, they limit the dangers, but don’t eliminate them. As precautions for an ice storm, we have more than enough food to last us, we also have a camp stove to cook it on, should the need arise.

We also have a propane heater and a couple 20lbs propane tanks. If we lost heat and power, I have even thought of how we could insulate one room in the house and have everyone camp out in it.

I looked for the danger and took precautions and in doing this, I believe I have lived out Proverbs 27:12 and 1 Timothy 5:8. We’re more prepared for a potential ice storm and if there is one, I can provide for my family.



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Does Preparing Cause You to Stumble?

I fully believe there are people being told by God to prepare for their future by storing food, water and supplies. I also believe there are people God wants to rely solely on Him, to wait for manna. This is why I think prayer and seeking Him is so important. You have to be obedient and you'll only know what He wants if you ask.

If, by preparing for your families future, you damage your walk with Christ, then do not do it. You had better be sure that it is Him telling you not to.

I'm reminded of the parable; there is a flood on the way and a family believes God will save them. As everyone else is evacuating, a truck stops and offers assistance to the family to help them evacuate. To this they say "No thank you, the Lord will save us". As the water begins to rise, they move to the top floor. Someone stops by in a boat and offers to take them to safety, to which they reply "No thank you, the Lord will save us". When the waters force them onto the roof, a rescue chopper comes to take them to safety, to which they reply "No thank you, the Lord will save us".

Soon the waters overtake the home and the entire family perishes. When they get to heaven they ask the Lord "Why did you not rescue us?" To which He replies, "I tried three times; once with a car, once with a boat and once with a helicopter."

I bring this up to say that we need to be careful about putting God in a box and deciding how He is going to rescue us. Sometimes He feeds us from the harvest (grocery run) from long ago and doesn't necessarily make manna appear.



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What Should You Do Now?

Now that you have finished this eBook, if you're new to preparedness, you might be wondering what you should do now. I have covered a wide variety of information at PreparedChristian.net.

If you visit the site, you will see a tab called "General Preparedness." Scroll over it and you will see many of the topics covered, as well as one called "[Getting started](#)". That link takes you to a page that will cover some of the information listed in this eBook, but will also list some articles to help you develop your own preparedness plan.

There is an article on water purification and many articles listed on the types of food you can store, as well as food storage in general.

If you received this from someone and are not already signed up to get updates, you can sign up for daily or weekly updates to keep up with any new articles posted, if you so choose. Feel free to e-mail me any questions you may have.

I hope you enjoyed this eBook and that it helped answer any questions you may have had.

May God bless you,

CHRIS RAY

<http://preparedchristian.net/>

Being Prudent in Today's World



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Appendix

Food Shortages

July 19, 2012

World braced for new food crisis

May 6, 2011

Clinton raises alarm on rising food prices

April 21, 2011

20 Signs That Point to a Global Food Crisis

January 22, 2011

Lester Brown: Food crisis 2011 is here

January 14, 2011

Global food chain stretched to the limit

Soaring prices spark fears of social unrest in developing world

September 2, 2010

Fears grow over global food supply

Emerging Middle Class

May 4, 2011

Don't Blame Goldman Sachs for the Food Crisis, Blame The Meat-Loving Middle Class

UN calls special meeting to address food shortages amid predictions of riots Poor harvests and demand from developing countries could push cost of weekly shop up by 10%

Forget oil, the new global crisis is food

Running the Aquifers Dry (world wide)

March 7, 2011

US farmers fear the return of the Dust Bowl

January 23, 2010

Aquifer Depletion

Water Crisis

**Look at the section called "The concept of Water Stress"



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The Result: Food Riots

[March 9, 2011](#)

['Warning Of 'Food Price Riots In The UK'](#)

[January 30, 2011](#)

[Egypt and Tunisia usher in the new era of global food revolutions](#)

[January 7, 2011](#)

[Fresh rioting breaks out in Algerian capital Algiers](#)

[November 26, 2010](#)

[Chinese pupils trash dinner hall in protest at cost of meals](#)

[Prices going up, but Walmart still cheapest](#)

[May 9, 2011](#)

[Food Prices Going Up As Product Sizes Shrink](#)

[February 17, 2011](#)

[The Invisible Food Crisis](#)

[Food prices are going up everywhere. Will they start rising in America, too?](#)

[November 15, 2010](#)

[Higher Corn Prices Causing Rising Grocery Prices](#)

[October 25, 2010](#)

[USDA: Food inflation to accelerate into 2011](#)

[October 8, 2010](#)

[Soaring prices threaten new food crisis](#)

