

would cry, “This is the day I have long prayed for, the kingdom of God has come at last.” Blessed is he who has a ready heart.

He that is ready has a *home ready for him in heaven*. The Lord Jesus Christ has told him that He is gone “to prepare a place” for him. A house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, awaits him. He is not yet come to his full inheritance—his best things are yet to come. He can bear sickness, for he shall have a glorious new body in a short time. He can bear losses and crosses, for his choicest treasures are far beyond the reach of harm. He can bear disappointments, for the springs of his greatest happiness can never be made dry. He can think calmly of death because it will open a door for him from the lower house to the upper chamber, even the presence of the King. He is immortal till his work is done. He can look forward to the coming of the Lord without alarm. He knows that they who are ready will enter with Him to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Happy is that man whose lodging is prepared for him in the kingdom of Christ.

Reader, do you know anything of the things I have just spoken of? Do you know anything of a

ready Savior, a ready heart, and a ready home in heaven? Examine yourself honestly. How does the matter stand between you and the Lord?

Oh, be merciful to your own soul! Have compassion on that immortal part of you. Do not neglect its interest, for the sake of mere worldly objects. Business, pleasure, money, politics, will soon be done with forever. Do not refuse to consider the question I ask you,

ARE YOU READY?

Reader, if you are not ready, I beg you to make ready without delay. I tell you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that all things are ready on God’s part for your salvation. The Father is ready to receive you, the Lord Jesus is ready to wash your sins away, the Spirit is ready to renew and sanctify you, angels are ready to rejoice over you, saints are ready to hold out the right hand to you. Oh, why not ready yourself this very year?

If you have reason to hope you are ready, I advise you to make sure. Walk more closely with God. Get nearer to Christ. Seek to exchange hope for assurance. Seek to feel the witness of the Spirit more closely and distinctly each day. Lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily

ensnares you. Press towards the mark more earnestly. Fight a better fight, and war a better warfare every day you live. Pray more—read more—humble yourself more—love the brethren more. Oh that you may endeavor to grow in grace, that your last things may be far more than your first, and the end of your Christian course far better than the beginning!

— J. C. RYLE

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matt. 11:28–30).

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150,000 People Die Every Day ARE YOU READY?

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matt. 24:44).

“Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away” (Jas. 4:14).

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27).

Everything is uncertain: we don’t know what a day may bring forth, much less what will happen in a year. Are you ready?

Are you ready for death? It must come some day: it may come this year. You cannot live always. This very year may be your last. You have no foothold in this world—you have not so much as a lease: you are nothing better than a tenant at God’s will. Your last sickness may come upon you, and give you notice to quit. The doctor may visit you, and exhaust his skill over

your case. Your friends may sit by your bedside, and look graver and graver every day. You may feel your own strength gradually wasting, and find something saying within, “I won’t come down from this bed, but die.” You may see the world slipping from beneath your feet, and all your schemes and plans suddenly stopped short. You may feel yourself drawing near to the coffin, and the grave, and the worm, and an unseen world, and eternity, and God. Reader, if death should come upon you, are you ready?

Are you ready for the Second Coming of Christ? He will come again to this world one day. As surely as He came the first time, 2,000 years ago, He will surely come the second time. He will come to reward all believers who have trusted in Him and confessed Him upon earth. He will come to punish all His enemies—the careless, the ungodly, the impenitent, and the unbelieving. He will come very suddenly, at an hour when no one expects Him to come—as a thief in the night. He will come in awesome majesty, in the glory of His Father, with the holy angels. A flaming fire shall go before Him. The dead shall be raised, the judgment shall be set,

the books shall be opened! Some shall be exalted into heaven. Many, very many, shall be cast down to hell. The time for repentance shall be over. Many shall cry, “Lord, Lord, open to us!” but find the door of mercy closed forever. After this there will be no change. Reader, if Christ should come the second time this year, are you ready?

O reader, these are solemn questions! They ought to make you examine yourself. They ought to make you think. It would be a terrible thing to be taken by surprise. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

But will I leave you here? I will not. Shall I raise searching questions of heart, and not set before you the way of life? I will not do so. Hear me for a few moments, while I try to show you the God Who is ready.

He that is ready has a *ready Savior*. He has Jesus ever ready to help him. He lives the life of faith in the Son of God. He has discovered his own sinfulness, and fled to Christ for peace. He has committed his soul and all its concerns to Christ’s keeping. If he has bitter cups of affliction to drink, he knows they are mixed by the hand that was nailed to the cross for his sins. If he is called to die, he knows that the grave is the place

where the Lord lay. If those He loves are taken away, he remembers that Jesus is a friend that sticks closer than a brother, and a husband who never dies. If the Lord should come again, he knows that he has nothing to fear. The Judge of all will be that very Jesus who has washed his sins away. Happy is that man who can say, with Hezekiah, “The Lord was ready to save me” (Isa. 38:20).

He that is ready has a *ready heart*. He has been born again, and renewed in the spirit of his mind. The Holy Spirit has shown him the true value of everything on the earth, and taught him to set his affections on things above. The Holy Spirit has shown him his own weaknesses and sins, and made him feel that he should be thankful for everything; and satisfied with any condition. If affliction comes upon him, his heart whispers, “There must be a reason for it. I deserve correction. It is meant to teach me some useful lesson.” If bereavement comes upon him, his heart reminds him that the Lord gave and the Lord must take away, whenever He sees fit. If death draws near, his heart says, “My times are in Your hand: as You will, when You will and where You will.” If the Lord should come, his heart