

Bibb Baptist

ASSOCIATION



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"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along" 2 Cor. 11:28b
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LOCAL EDITION OF
THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

Always Be Ready

The challenge from 1 Peter 3:15 reads "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

We never know when the opportunity will happen. The Scripture clearly says to be prepared. The LORD wants me to have a biblically correct, and theologically sound answer for my hope.

There are spiritual requirements for sharing the gospel. Commitment to Christ and a growing relationship with Him through active fellowship with Jesus, His word, and His people. Honoring the LORD with my mind, emotions, and my will. The answer for my hope comes from a daily life of worshiping, walking, waiting, working, and desiring to witness. Being prepared starts now! The blessing of being prepared will last throughout eternity.

So, how does a believer prepare? Spiritual preparation is first. "In your hearts honor Christ." That fills your lamp with the oil of God's Spirit.

Mental preparation is important. You need to know what kind of hope you have. "Always being prepared". You never know when someone will notice that you have been with Jesus and want to hear about the when, where, how, why, and the what of your hope.

Emotional preparation is also imperative. "Do it with gentleness and respect" suggests that your emotions need to be in check. Being a know it all is not helpful. Being judgmental doesn't help. When you come across as condescending, self-righteous, and haughty the conversation is not going to go well.

To help with preparation let's think about what kind of hope we have. It is an unseen hope. I never had the honor of seeing George Washington, but I enjoy the privileges his life produced. I can't see the internet cloud, or electricity but I depend on both of them to work. I have not seen Jesus in the flesh, but I fully expect to see Him because He promised to come again. Romans 8:24

My hope is a living hope because Jesus is alive and is living in each person who has been born again. 1 Peter 1:3

Our hope is a saving hope because Jesus has saved us from sin, selfishness, and Satan. He saves us from guilt, shame, and from the bondage of sin. We are saved from eternal death. 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Biblical Hope is a sure hope. It is as sure as an anchor that holds a ship in place during calm waters and the worst of storms. It is sure as the sun that brings light after the dark. Hebrews 6:19

This hope is a good hope. It is from a good God. It is from good grace. It is as good as the best news you have ever heard. It is better than the best gift you ever received. 2 Thessalonians 2:16

It is an eternal hope. Titus 3:7 Life on this side of eternity is limited but Jesus' words ring true and hopeful, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever trusts in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and has confidence in me shall never die. John 11:25-26

Final Thoughts. This answer of hope is compelling and challenging to the person who asks. It is true, and God's Spirit will use the gospel to convict, convince, and convert.

Communicate this hope with respect for the LORD! Be kind and gentle to the person who asked. A positive decision of trusting the hope of the gospel is not guaranteed but remember God will always do His work.

God's power of gospel hope. The commitment and honor given to the LORD Jesus produces a tangible hope in a person's life, lifestyle, in both the spiritual, and natural settings of life. The LORD's transformation from that kind of lifestyle will result in some people asking for my reason from having the attitudes, aspirations, and actions that are clearly different from the normal and natural. The LORD promises He gives me hope, and a story to share with people He brings into my life.

The challenge is to let Christ make me into a person who is clearly desiring to honor Christ, be holy, and willing to share the gospel in the power of Christ and leave the results to God.

I must always remember that it is a stumbling block to try to share the hope of the LORD without His holiness, and kindness.

"The purpose of apologetics is not just to win an argument or a discussion, but that people with whom we are in contact may become Christians and then live under the lordship of Christ in the whole spectrum of life." —Francis Schaeffer

BBA CELEBRATE 250 SPRING RENEWAL



Shady Grove Baptist Church

113 Shady Grove Loop, Randolph, AL 36792 - Hwy 139

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Service at 6:00pm - Refreshments afterward

GUEST SPEAKER: REV. TOM JORDAN

WORSHIP LEADER: GLENDA RICE



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