PREPARATION
HAVING DONE ALL TO STAND
****

IN LIVING THE CHRISTIA N LIFE,WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS AS WELL AS MEN.IN AN EFFECTUALLY FOUGHT,VICTORIOUS BATTLE THERE MUST BE A LOT OF PREPAREDNESS;SOME OF IT VERY EXPENSIVE.

PREPARATION IS A BIG P ART OF WOMAN'S LIFE,WHETHER SHE BE YOUNG OR OL D.WE PREPARE FOR VISITORS,FOR A TRIP,FOR A GOSPEL MEETING.A GIRL PREPARES FOR SCHOOL,FOR A DATE,FOR HER WEDDING.A MOTHER MAKES EXTENSIVE PREPARATION FOR A NEW BABY.THERE IS SOME DEGREE OF PREPARATION IN EVERY PHASE OF OUR LIVES.PREPARATION IS SOMETHING THAT WE GROW TO EXPECT AS A PART OF A WOMAN'S LIFE. SO WE COME TO TAKE PRIDE IN BEING PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES.WE LIKE TO THINK THAT WE ARE EFFICIENT IN OUR WORK.AND THE LORD APPROVES OF THIS ATTITUDE.IF YOU WILL READ THE 31ST CHAPTER OF PROVERBS,STARTING WITH THE 10TH VERSE,YOU WILL SEE THAT THE LORD RATES AN EFFECIENT, INDUSTRIOUS,PREPARED WOMAN AS VIRTUOUS.A LOT OF OUR WORK AS CHRISTIAN WOMEN HAS TO DO WITH THESE EVERY DAY,HOMEY THINGS.AND TO DO THEM WELL AND THOROUGHLY IS A VIRTUE.

BUT REMEMBER HOW THE LORD TOLD BUSY MARTHA THAT MARY,SITTING AT HIS FEET,HAD CHOSEN THE BETTER PART,(LK.10:38-42).THE LORD WASN'T CHIDING MARTHA FOR HER PREPARATION FOR HER GUESTS.NEITHER WAS HE CHIDING HER FOR COOKING A NOURISHING MEAL.MARTHA WAS A VIRTUOUS WOMAN.WHAT THE LORD WAS TEACHING HER WAS THAT THERE IS A TIME FOR ALL THINGS.SHE HAD PREPARED HER HOME TO RECEIVE THEM.BUT AFTER THEY ARRIVED,SHE WAS STILL MUCH CUMBERED WITH MUCH SERVING,AND MANY THINGS.THE LORD TOLD HER THAT BUT ONE THING WAS NECESSARY AND THAT MARY HAD CHOSEN THE GOOD PART.IN OTHER WORDS,AS WE WOULD SAY,"RELAX,MARTHA;JUST A VERY SIMPLE MEAL;JUST ONE THING IS SUFFICIENT.COME AND SIT AT MY FEET WITH MARY AND FEAST SPIRITUALLY." MARTHA HAD FAILED IN THE MOST IMPORTANT PREPARATION OF ALL.SHE HAD NOT PREPARED TIME FOR HER SPIRITUAL EDIFICATION.SO BY FAULTY PREPARATION,SHE MISSED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIT AT JESUS' FEET THAT SHE MIGHT NEVER HAVE AGAIN.

THERE IS A BIG LESSON IN THIS FOR US TODAY.WE ARE SO PRONE TO MAKE SUCH A BIG THING OF PREPARATION IN TEMPORAL LINES,THAT WE JUST DON'T HAVE TIME TO SIT AT JESUS' FEET.LET'S KEEP IT SIMPLE,SISTERS.THERE IS THIS VERY IMPORTANT PREPARATION WE ARE ALSO TO MAKE,AND NOT TO NEGLECT THE OTHER.

EPH.6:13,"WHEREFORE TAKE UNTO YOU THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD,THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IN THE EVIL DAY,AND HAVING DONE ALL TO STAND."

THIS WORD "WITHSTAND",MEANS TO STAND AGAINST,OPPOSE,RESIST.

SO,AS SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS,PAUL WARNS US THERE WILL BE EVIL DAYS WITH SATAN,HE INSTRUCTS US JUST WHAT PREPARATION WE MUST MAKE AGAINST THIS EVIL DAY,THAT WE MAY AQUIT OURSELVES WELL IN OPPOSING,RESISTING,AND STANDING AGAINST HIM AND ALL HIS MESSENGERS.

IN OUR BUSY DAYS OF PREPARING FOR THIS AND THAT,LET US KEEP IN MIND THAT THE SPIRITUAL PREPARATION IS THE GOOD PART WE MUST NOT NEGLECT. IT CONCERNS OUR ETERNITY,THAT OF OUR FAMILY,AND OTHERS WE COME IN CONTACT WITH.PAUL GIVES US INSTRUCTIONS IN GREAT DETAIL HOW WE ARE TO MAKE THIS PREPARATION.THESE INSTRUCTIONS,OF COURSE ARE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED INTO THE ARMY OF THE LORD.THEY ARE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE OBEYED THE GOSPEL,AND TAKEN THEIR STAND UNDER THE BLOOD-STAINED BANNER OF CHRIST.INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS.

EPH.6:14-18,"STAND THEREFORE,HAVING YOUR LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH,AND HAVING ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS;AND YOUR FEET SHOD WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;ABOVE ALL TAKING THE SHIELD OF FAITH,WHEREWITH YE SHALL BE ABLE TO QUENCH ALL THE FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED.AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION,AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT,WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD;PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT,AND WATCHING THEREUNTO WITH ALL PERSEVERENCE AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL SAINTS."

WE NEED EVERY SINGLE PIECE OF ARMOUR THAT PAUL LISTED:IF WE ARE TO BE PREPARED TO STAND;AND STAND.IT IS VERY EXPENSIVE.MONEY CAN'T BUY IT.BUT THE SAVIOUR BOUGHT COMPLETE SETS OF THE FINEST GRADE OF ARMOUR FOR EVERY ONE OF HIS SOLDIERS.HE BOUGHT IT WITH HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD.OF COURSE IT IS UP TO US TO PUT IT ON,AND MAKE OUR SELVES FAMILIAR WITH IT AND ITS USE.THIS IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

EPH.6:11-12,"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD,THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL.FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD,BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS,AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD,AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES."

WE KNOW THAT GOD IS LIGHT,AND NO DARKNESS IS IN HIM.SATAN AND HIS ANGELS ARE DARKNESS.THEY SPREAD DARKNESS AND WICKEDNESS IN THE WORLD THROUGH HUMANS WHO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE USED BY THEM.

LET US STUDY EACH INDIVIDUAL PIECE OF ARMOUR WE ARE TO PUT ON IN PREPARATION TO STAND IN BATTLE."LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH." IF WE ARE AT ALL TIMES GIRT ABOUT WITH THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL,WE WILL MAKE THE PROPER CHOICES AND DECISIONS IN L IFE.

JNO.1:17,"GRACE AND TRUTH CAME BY JESUS CHRIST."

JNO.8:32,"YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE." FREE FROM SIN.FREE FROM FEAR OF DEATH.FREE FROM THE DECEIVER.FOR IF WE CLING TO THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL,WE CAN RESIST THE DEVIL.,AND HE, WILL FLEE FROM US (JAS.4:7).BUT FOR THIS GIRDLE OF TRUTH TO BE REALLY EFFECTIVE,WE MUST LOVE IT MORE THAN ANY OTHER GIRDLE,OR WAY OF THINKING OR DOING.

2 THESS.2:10-12,"AND WITH ALL DECEIVIABLENESS OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IN THEM THAT PERISH;BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED NOT A LOVE OF THE TRUTH,THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED.FOR THIS CAUSE GOD SHALL SEND THEM A STRONG DELUSION THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE A LIE:THAT THEY MIGHT ALL BE DAMNED WHO BELIEVED NOT THE TRUTH,BUT HAD PLEASURE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS." THIS IS A GREAT DANGER PAUL WARNS US OF.WE MUSTN'T TRY IN ANY WAY TO REMODEL OUR GIRDLE OF TRUTH.BECAUSE TRUTH CHANGED BECOMES A LIE.BUT IF WE DELIBERATELY CHOOSE THE LIE,LOVING IT MORE THAN THE TRUTH GOD HAS PROMISED THAT HE WILL THEN SEND US A STRONG DELUSION SO THAT WE CAN L IVE OUR LIE AND DECEIVE OURSELVES THAT WE ARE BEING SINCERE AND HONEST.LET US WEAR THE GIRDLE OF TRUTH THE LORD HAS PREPARED FOR US NOT MARRING IT IN ANY WAY.

"THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS." IN ORDER THAT WE MAY BE COMPLETELY PROTECTED,THE LORD HAS PREPARED US A BREASTPLATE OF THE FINEST MATERIALS,HIS OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS.IN ISA.64:6,WE ARE TOLD THAT "OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS AS FILTHY RAGS." WE MUST AQUIRE A WORKABLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD,OR WE ARE IN DANGER OF USEING THIS FILTHY RAGS TYPE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,IN A MISTAKEN ZEAL.ROM.10:2-3,"FOR I BEAR THEM RECORD THAT THEY HAVE A ZEAL OF GOD,BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE.FOR THEY BEING IGNORANT OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS,AND GOING ABOUT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS,HAVE NOT SUBMITTED THEMSELVES TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD." WE KNOW THAT A FILTHY RAGS BREASTPLATE WOULD NOT PROTECT US NO MATTER HOW ZEALOUSLY WE TRIED TO USE IT.SO LET US MAKE SURE THAT OUR PREPARATION IS FOR PLENTY OF TIME TO SIT AT THE FEET OF JESUS IN STUDY AND MEDITATION OF HIS WORD.THUS WE GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.1 COR.1:30 "BUT OF HIM ARE YE IN CHRIST JESUS,WHO OF GOD IS MADE UNTO US WISDOM AND RIGHTEOUSNESS,AND SANCTIFICATION,AND REDEMPTION." OUR BEAUTIFUL BREASTPLATE.

"YOUR FEET SHOD WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST." IF OUR FEET ARE NOT WELL SHOD WE WILL BE HAMPERED;NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE REST OF OUR ARMOUR.THERE WILL BE THORNES,ROUGH,SHARP ROCKY WAYS,AND DANGEROUS SLIPPERY GROUND IN THE COURSE OF THE JOURNEY OF LIFE.AND ALWAYS THE DEVIL TO BE WITHSTOOD..OUR FEET MUST BE WELL SHOD.BUT WHAT IS THE "PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE?" THINK.

LUKE 24:44-47,"AND HE SAID UNTO THEM,THESE ARE THE WORDS WHICH I SPAKE UNTO YOU,WHILE I WAS YET WITH YOU,THAT ALL THINGS MUST BE FULFILLED,WHICH WERE WRITTEN IN THE LAW OF MOSES,AND IN THE PROPHETS,AND IN THE PSALMS CONCERNING ME.THEN OPENED HE THEIR UNDERSTANDING,THAT THEY MIGHT UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURES.AND SAID UNTO THEM,THUS IT IS WRITTEN, AND THUS IT BEHOOVED CHRIST TO SUFFER,AND TO RISE FROM THE DEAD THE THIRD DAY:AND THAT REPENTANCE AND REMISSION OF SINS SHOULD BE PREACHED IN HIS NAME AMONG ALL NATIONS,BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM."

ALL THESE THINGS THAT WERE WRITTEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:GOD'S DEALINGS WITH MAN;AND HIS PROMISES OF SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST,WAS THE PREP ARATION FOR THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.AND WE MUST HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THESE THINGS IN ORDER TO BE SHOD.THIS REQUIRES READING AND STUDY ON OUR PART. MORE PREPARATION.

"ABOVE ALL ~~XXXXXX~~ THE SHIELD OF FAITH WHEREWITH WE MAY BE ABLE TO QUENCH ALL THE FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED."

OUR SHIELD TAKES A REAL BEATING.WE HOLD IT UP TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM ALL THE FIERY DARTS OF THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS.AND THEY WILL BE THROWING PLENTY OF THEM.WHERE DO WE GET FAITH FOR OUR SHIELD? ROM.10:17, "SO THEN FAITH COMES BY HEARING,AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD." WELL, WE ALL KNOW THAT.BUT THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS AND SITUATIONS FACE A WOMAN IN OUR MODERN DAY LIFE THAT ARE DIFFERENT.YES,SISTERS,THAT IS TRUE. BUT LET US REMEMBER,THE LORD IS NOT DIFFERENT.MAL.3:6,"FOR I AM THE LORD I CHANGE NOT." HEB.13:8,"JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY,AND TODAY;AND FOR EVER." CHRIST STANDS,EVER THE SAME;LIKE A MIGHTY ROCK OF SHELTER IN THE WEARY LAND.IF THE WORLD HAS CHANGED.IT HAS CHANGED BY DRIFTING FROM CHRIST AND FOLLOWING AFTER SATAN.SATAN HAS EVER BEEN FULL OF NEW INVENTIONS AND CHANGES.BUT CHRIST STANDS THE SAME.TRUTH CHANGES NOT.REMEMBER HE IS THE AUTHOR AND THE FINISHER OF OUR FAITH (HEB.12:2).BESIDES THE GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOOD WORKS THAT APPLY TO ALL SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS:THERE ARE ALSO SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS. DO YOU KNOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE FAITH WELL? ARE YOU GUIDED BY

THEM IN EVERY FACET OF YOUR LIFE? REMEMBER IT IS THE WORLD THAT CHANGES, NOT CHRIST AND THE TRUTH.AND REMEMBER HOW WE CAN DECEIVE OURSELVES AND CHOOSE THE WAYS AND FASHIONS OF THE WORLD.SISTERS,IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR SHIELD BE THE ONE THAT CHRIST PROVIDED:"FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD."OTHERWISE IT CANNOT PROTECT US FROM THE FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED.

"AND FOR AN HELMET,THE HOPE OF SALVATION."

OUR SALVATION IS BY HOPE.IF WE HOLD OUT FAITHFUL UNTIL THE END, WE SHALL RECEIVE OUR FULL SALVATION WE HAVE HOPED FOR HERE:ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD.1 PET.1 :5,"WHO ARE KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH FAITH UNTO SALVATION READY TO BE REVEALED AT THE LAST TIME." HEB.6:18"-- WHO FLED FOR REFUGE TO LAY HOLD UPON THE HOPE THAT IS SET BEFORE US:WHICH HOPE WE HAVE AS AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL,BOTH SURE AND STEDFAST,WHICH ENTERETH INTO THAT WITHIN THE VAIL." REV.21:3-4,"BEHOLD THE TABERNACLE OF GOD IS WITH MEN,AND HE WILL DWELL WITH THEM,AND THEY SHALL BE HIS PEOPLE,AND GOD HIMSELF SHALL BE WITH THEM,AND BE THEIR GOD.AND GOD SHALL WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS FROM THEIR EYES;AND THERE SHALL BE NO MORE DEATH, NEITHER SORROW,NOR CRYING,NEITHER SHALL THERE BE ANY MORE PAIN:FOR THE FORMER THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY." WHAT A BEAUTIFUL HOPE WE HAVE FOR OUR HELMET.WEARING IT,WE SHOULD NEVER GIVE WAY TO DISCOURAGEMENT;SHOULD NEVER FALTER.THEN WHEN OUR HOPE IS LOST IN SIGHT:GOD WILL REPLACE OUR HELMET OF HOPE OF SALVATION WITH A CROWN OF ETERNAL LIFE.

"AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT,WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD."

NO EFFECTUAL SOLDIER GOES INTO BATTEE WITHOUT A WEAPON.AND THE LORD HAS PROVIDED THE BEST FOR US.BUT BEING ABLE TO USE IT EFFECIENTLY REQUIRES PREPARATION ON OUR PART.AND PRACTICE.

HEB.4:12,"FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK,AND POWERFUL,AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWO EDGED SWORD,PIERCING EVEN TO THE DIVIDING ASUNDER OF SOUL AND SPIRIT,OF JOINTS AND MARROW,AND IS A DISCERNER OF THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART." CHRIST DEMONSTRATES FOR US HOW TO USE THE SWORD WHEN IN BATTLE WITH SATAN IN MATTH.4:1-11.NOTICE HE MET EACH THRUST OF SATAN WITH,"IT IS WRITTEN."HE IS OUR EXAMPLE. 1 PET.3:15,"BUT SANCTIFY THE LORD GOD IN YOUR HEARTS:AND BE READY ALWAYS TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERY MAN THAT ASKETH YOU A REASON OF THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU WITH MEEKNESS AND FEAR." WHEN YOUR FRIENDS AND AQUAINTANCES IN THE WORLD ASK YOU WHY YOU DO NOT DO THINGS YOU KNOW THAT ARE WRONG FOR A CHRISTIAN TO DO. THEN WE MUST BE ABLE TO SAY AS CHRIST DID,"IT IS WRITTEN."REMEMBER,IT IS THE WORLD THAT CHANGES,NEVER CHRIST.AS A GOOD SOLDIER USE YOUR SWORD SKILLFULLY.

NOW,HAVING MADE PREPARATION TO STAND BY PUTTING ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD,WE ARE COMMANDED TO STAND.WE MUST STAND EVEN UNTO DEATH, AS CHRIST DID.THERE IS NO EXCEPTION.NO EXCUSE.NOT EVEN TO SAVE OUR LIVES REMEMBER CHRIST;THE APOSTLES,AND THE SAINTS.WE WILL STAND IN JUDGEMENT BESIDE THEM.THEY DIDN'T GIVE EXCUSES,BUT STOOD ON THE TRUTH.BUT IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE TRUST GOD COMPLETELY.HE CAN ALWAYS GIVE US VICTORY, EVEN IN DEATH,IF WE HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL.BUT THERE IS ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT DUTY FOR THE SOLDIER OF THE CROSS.HE MUST STAND IN THE GAP FOR ALL HIS BRETHREN,PRAYING FOR THEM.NOT JUST ON THE LORD'S DAY MORNING. BUT THE BATTLE GOES ON ALL WEEK.KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK:AT HOME,AT ~~SCHOOL~~ WORK, AT SCHOOL,EVEN ON VACATION.

EPH.6:18,"PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL PRAYER AND SUP PLICATION IN THE SPIRIT,AND WATCHING THEREUNTO WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND SUPP LICATION FOR ALL SAINTS." 1 TIM.2:1-4,"I EXHORT,THEREFORE,THAT,FIRST OF ALL, PRAYERS,SUPPLICATIONS,INTERCESSIONS,AND GIVING OF THANKS,BE MADE FOR ALL MEN;FOR KINGS,AND ALL THAT ARE IN AUTHORITY;THAT WE MAY LEAD A QUIET AND PEACEABLE LIFE IN ALL GODLINESS AND HONESTY.FOR THIS IS ACCEPTABLE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD OUR SAVIOUR;WHO WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED,AND TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH."

SUBMITTED IN CHRISTIAN LOVE,MARCH 1969,
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"YOUNG SOLDIERS,GIRD YOUR ARMOUR ON,AND BRAVELY MEET THE FOE;
THERE'S BLESSINGS AT THE MERCY SEAT,KEEP PRAYING AS YOU GO."