

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

A teaching bulletin produced and provided by FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 2 ◆ Issue 27 ◆ July 4, 2021

THE NEED TO ARISE

Larry R. Ping II

The word "arise" appears 149 times within the confines of God's Word. It carries with it several thoughts.

(1) *At times it simply means the physical act of rising from a sitting to position to a standing one.*

(2) *It also denotes there is not time to waste. Hence, speed is of ultimate concern and interest.*

(3) *When iterated from Divine lips (and very often it is), it signifies there is something important and paramount needing done.*

So, understanding these definitions and explanations, briefly consider these instances of Bible calls to "arise." There is a need to arise when...

1) We Are Searching For God's Blessings.

Abraham was called to, "Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee" (Gen. 13:17). This

was the land said to be "flowing with milk and honey" (Exo. 3:8). Recall, though, in order to view this, Abram was called to "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee" (Gen. 12:1). We should always be searching for the blessings and gifts of God, but it will require us to arise and find them. Are you willing to put in the work and effort to do so?

2) We Are Trying To Flee From Evil And Sin. Lot was adamantly told, "Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city" (Gen. 19:15). Men cannot afford to linger around temptation, for in doing so will likely yield to such. This is why the apostle penned, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thess. 5:22). He would also say "Flee also youthful lusts" (II Tim. 2:22), "flee from idolatry" (I Cor. 10:14) and "flee fornication" (I Cor. 6:18).

The young man Joseph furnishes an excellent example of this. Upon facing severe and difficult temptation from Potiphar's wife, he "left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out" (Gen. 39:12). We should always be aware of temptation and evil around us and be ever ready to arise and rapidly flee from it.

3) Sin Needs Confronting. As Moses was upon the mount receiving the Law, the children below had erected a golden calf to worship. God said to Moses, "Arise, get thee down quickly from hence; for thy people which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt have corrupted themselves; they are quickly turned aside out of the way which I commanded them; they have made them a molten image" (Dte. 9:12). When sin is present, be it in an individual or among a group of people, it needs to be dealt with quickly. If left untreated or unnoticed, it will lead to a "conscience seared" (I Tim. 4:2). Jesus put

THE NEED TO ARISE

Larry R. Ping II

a priority upon fixing sin when He said, *“if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift”* (Matt. 5:23-24). Sin is the ultimate disease, bringing about dire consequences. The Messianic prophet reminded, *“Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear”* (Isa. 59:1-2). Paul imparted, *“the wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23). We should be vigilant to eradicate sin from our lives, or from groups. This requires us to arise and encounter it!

4) It Is Time To Build Up The Lord's Body. No other book in the Bible does better teaching about building than Nehemiah. He said, *“The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build”* (Neh. 2:20).

The Lord's body does not grow without the hard work of its members. Paul penned, *“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase”* (I Cor. 3:6). He commanded the same group, *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”* (I Cor. 15:58). God will certainly bring the increase, but we must be busy planting and watering the seed, identified as *“the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”* (I Pet. 1:23). Will you arise and build?

5) It Is Time For Me To Make Things Right. In the familiar story of the prodigal son, the young man, now in dire straits says, *“I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants”* (Lk. 15:18-19). Making things right with others and God is vitally important, but it does not happen by itself. It requires an individual to take

the necessary steps. Simon the sorcerer, upon sinning as a child of God was told, *“Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee”* (Acts 8:22). John explained, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (I Jn. 1:9). God certainly wants you to be saved and forgiven, but this requires you to arise and do as commanded.

6) It Is Time To Obey The Plan Of Salvation. Saul the persecutor was told to, *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* (Acts 22:16). And he was! There is no need for delay in obeying God's scheme of redemption. This same Paul later wrote, *“behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (II Cor. 6:2). If you have been putting off obedience to God's plan for salvation, why are you waiting? Arise, and do as He says, and be saved!

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 672
Vincennes, IN 47591

Phone: 317.308.8288

Website: www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com

Email: firstcitychurchofchrist@gmail.com

MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm