

# Be Ready

## Memory verse:

❖ *Matthew 24:44:*

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

## General facts:

- God exists; He is the creator of the whole universe the secret of our existence and our salvation.
- In the first three chapters in the book of Genesis, we can find:

## The Completion of the Creation:

❖ *Genesis 2:7-10:*

“And the Lord God **formed** man **of the dust** of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life**; and man became a living being. The Lord God **planted a garden** eastward in Eden, and there He put **the man whom He had formed**. And out of the ground the Lord God made **every tree grow** that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The **tree of life** was also in the **midst of the garden**, and the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**. Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden”

❖ *Genesis 2:21-25:*

“And the Lord God **caused a deep sleep** to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took **one of his ribs**, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, He **made into a woman**, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: ‘This is now **bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh**; She shall be called Woman, **because she was taken out of Man**. Therefore, a man shall **leave his father and mother** and be **joined to his wife**, and they shall **become one flesh**. And they were both **naked**, the man and his wife, and were **not ashamed**”

## The Fall of Man:

### ❖ *Genesis 3:5-6:*

“In the day you **eat** of it **your eyes will be opened**, and you will be **like God, knowing good and evil**. So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was **pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree **desirable** to make one **wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also **gave to her husband** with her, and he ate”

### ❖ *Genesis 3:8-12:*

“And they heard the **sound of the Lord God walking** in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife **hid themselves** from the **presence of the Lord God** among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord **God called to Adam** and said to him, ‘**Where are you?**’ So he said, ‘**I heard Your voice** in the garden, and I was **afraid** because I was **naked**; and I **hid myself**.’ And He said, ‘**Who told you** that you were naked? **Have you eaten** from the tree of which I **commanded** you that you should not eat?’ Then the man said, ‘The **woman whom You gave** to be with me, she **gave me** of the tree, and **I ate**.’”

## The Promise of Salvation and Redemption:

### ❖ *Genesis 3:14-15:*

“So the Lord God said to the **serpent**: “Because you have done this, you are **cursed** more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your **belly you shall go**, and you shall **eat dust** all the days of your life. And I will **put enmity between you and the woman**, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

- This is what happened on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, He “crushed Satan” although Satan made the Jews “crushed His heel” referring to the wounds in His body.
- The Lord accomplished this through His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension into heaven.
- He sent us the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, who instituted Churches the ship of salvation.
- He promised to come again with glory, He will come in His glory and the glory of His Father and give each one according to his deed. (Divine Liturgy)
- Through faith, repentance, confession, spiritual guidance, partaking in the Holy Mysteries we abide in Christ and He in us and we have eternal life
- Therefore, we are keen to partake the Holy Communion since their Baptism, which should not be delayed except for necessity and under the guidance of the priest. So we abide in Christ and He abides in us

### ❖ *John 6:56*

“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him”

## Preparing for the Second Coming:

### 1. Be Ready by Faith:

- We believe in one God creator of heaven and earth:  
In Greek *EGO EIMI* (ἐγώ εἰμι) has a theological meaning (I am the origin of the existence)
- ❖ *Exodus 3:14:*  
“And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you’”.
- We believe in His promises in the Old Testament that were fulfilled in the New Testament (incarnation, redemption, resurrection, ascension, second coming, eternal life) This is what we proclaim in all our prayers, in the liturgies.
- Proof that both testaments are one book with one inspiration:
- ❖ *2 Peter 1:21:*  
“for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”
- ❖ *2 Timothy 3:16:*  
“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God”

### 2. Be Ready by Means of the Doctrine:

- **The goal of the Coptic Orthodox doctrine is:**
  - To explain the dogma in simple attractive ways suitable for all ages
  - Warn against the “No Sectarianism” which aims is the annulment of the Coptic Orthodox faith
- **This goal can be accomplished by understanding:**
  - The Holy Trinity
  - The differences between the different denominations.
  - The right understanding of Christian unity.
  - The role of the Nicaean council in rationing the faith and putting together the Nicaean creed... and “the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3) and to deliver to other generations.

- **The Coptic Orthodox Doctrine is:**

- **Sound:** *controlled by the Scriptures and Tradition.*
  - Gives special attention to the subjects of the sacraments, intercession, prayers for the deceased, fasting, feasts and so on.
  - Provides Christian theologians with sound doctrine and formulated the Creed and other Christian truth in an accurate manner that was and still witnessed by the whole world.
- **Straight:** *in a straight line without any slight deviation.*
  - Never deviated to the right or to the left, since the era of the Apostles until now.
  - When in doubt about something, our Orthodox roots provide refuge for those who are confused.
  - These are historic facts, and not pride.
- **Comprehensive:** *does not exaggerate or ignore.*
  - Does not exaggerate on an issue on the expense of another (i.e. balance between praise and work or praising the Virgin Mary without raising her up to the level of divinity).
  - Allows people to read the bible and meditate on its words without giving them the freedom of putting individual explanation.
  - Respects the priesthood and its authority without denying the people's right to make the Church decisions.
  - It talks about grace but also talks about spiritual struggle.

- Biblical: *believes the importance of the Bible.*
  - A Church of Tradition, it believes in the importance of the ecclesiastical Tradition and that the Bible is the gift of the Tradition and part of it.
  - Believes that the bible is the rule of every doctrine, tradition and ritual; therefore, all the church's doctrines are biblical.
  - Respects the hundreds of verses about the sacraments, the intercession, unction of the sick, priesthood, the altar, honoring of St. Mary... etc.
  - Has the right understanding of the bible; the inheritance that we received from the fathers who lived the bible and we study their lives, sayings, bible explanations, and commentaries.
- ❖ *Hebrews 13:7:*  
"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith"
- ❖ *Matthew 13:23:*  
"But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

### 3. Be Ready Spiritually:

- God gave Man a spirit for Man to communicate with God, so do not neglect this part in your life.
- The Church is careful in helping its children to have good communication with God to prepare them for the life of sacrifice and to help them to tolerate the sufferings for the sake of Christ.
- Forms of communication with God include:
  - Prayer
  - Fasting
  - Reading the Holy Bible
  - The Eucharist
  - Reading spiritual readings
  - Attending spiritual meetings, service, praises... etc.

#### 4. Be Ready through the Church:

- Commitment to the Church life, on a personal level, in the family, in the Church.
- The history of our glorious church and the fathers who kept the faith and what they have written and recorded with their lives.
  - Examples: Pope Athanasius the Apostolic, Pope Cyril the great, Pope Dioscorus, and Pope Shenouda/
- Church rituals:
  - The Church's rituals are fulfilling at the intellectual, mental, and spiritual levels.
  - The Church's rituals are a vessel for the dogma.
- Our church membership is the union of the believers (on earth) with the saints (in heaven) with our Lord who is the head of the Church and her heavenly bridegroom.

#### 5. Be Ready through the Service:

- The Church is in need of a servant who has the right faith and the right belief in his regular life.
- Although the service is giving the servant also receives from the service
- ❖ *Proverbs 11:25*  
“The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.”
- We must serve with all our strength to the glory of the God's name, the extension of His kingdom, the growth of our personal lives and the building of the kingdom of God.
- There are many ways for the service such as:
  - The service of the word
  - The service of outreach
  - The service of prayer
  - The service of aghapy (food)...etc.

## 6. Be Ready for Eternal Life:

- Our daily goal is; “we look for the resurrection of the death and the life of the coming age”.
- The journey of all Christians will end at this point, the point of the harvest, when the Lord Jesus comes again in a visible manner
- ❖ *Revelation 1:7*  
“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him”
- In the first coming, He was born of the Virgin Mary humble and His divinity was hidden purposely for our redemption
- ❖ *1 Corinthians 2:8*  
“For had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”
- On the other hand, in the second coming, He will come again in “His glory” (Matthew 25:31) manifested “the brightness of His coming” (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
- The goal of the first coming was salvation. The goal of the second coming is judgment.
- Everyone must pay attention to his daily life, his regular confession, and his spiritual life, waiting for the end of the world or the end of life.

## 7. Be Ready in your daily life:

- Many ask if something lawful or unlawful. St. Paul gave us rules to follow in our daily life:
- ❖ *1 Corinthians 6:12*  
“All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”
- ❖ *1 Corinthians 10:2*  
“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.”
- In everything we do, we should ask ourselves:
  - Is it **helpful** for us as children of God?
  - Is it **edifying** to our life?
  - Would this **overpower** us?
- Refuse all negativities and all what is against the Christian faith, the bible and the Christian dogma.
- ❖ *1 Timothy 4:7*  
“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”