



REFLECTIONS

June 11, 2023

**But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone
who asks you to give the reason for the hope that
you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,**

1 Peter 3:15

Be Prepared

This familiar motto of the Boy Scouts of America has broader applications than scouting. Be prepared to explain the principles you live by but especially be prepared to explain the hope you rely on. My friend Ray Berend did just that.

God took Ray with little warning. But according to the story, he seemed to know what was happening. The tribute to his life told of his final “I love you” to his wife of 56 beautiful years, followed by a jest-full request, “Tell my trainer I will miss my Monday workout,” as Ray’s life streamed peacefully toward his heavenly home.

Oh, that we all may face our final moments in such peace. Ray lived out the reason for his hope. Though he did not say it, he might have explained his reason like this:

*Find rest, O my soul, in God alone;
my hope comes from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.
My salvation and my honor depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.*

Selah

(Psalms 62:5-8)

What a message of hope to leave the world. Then perhaps one more thought...

Be Prepared.

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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