

Are You Ready For School To Start?

➤ Intro:

- **time of year** get ready for school – **exciting time**
 - clothes, supplies, enroll and go to orientation, talking to friends and finding out who's in what class and where they're locker is
- **but as Christians**, most important thing to get ready is your soul — spiritual preparation
 - **good time to get a fresh start**

➤ Have you prepared your mind?

- **Matt. 15:16-20 importance: mind controls body – control mind, control everything - illus.: sports**
 - **Matt. 15:6b-9** sin results if not control mind to obey God

➤ - 1 Pet. 1:13-16 must prepare your mind (gird up loins) – unprepared mind results in failure

- **space mission**
- **during summer, may be able to let guard down** a little because not exposed to the world as much, but need to make sure your guard is up, more exposure to sinful influences as school starts again

➤ - 2 Pet. 1:2-11 how to prepare

- **vs. 2** knowledge – **Col. 3:10**
- **vs. 3** divine power – **Rom. 1:16; 1 Th. 2:13**
- **vs. 4** divine nature
- **vs. 5, 10** diligence
- **vs. 5-8** components, all present and working together – **work together to make strong – Bible drill**
- **vs. 8, 10, 11** result: fruitful, never stumble (**school**), eternal life

➤ - Have you put on your spiritual armor? – brief reminder, Wednesday class

- **Eph. 6:10** to be strong, in the Lord
- **Eph. 6:11** so you stand against devil, schemes, deceptions
- **Eph. 6:14-18** armor: truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, salvation, word of God, prayer
 - **Are you a faithful Christian, using God's word to prayerfully direct your life?** – studying, praying – prepared your mind?
 - **When you go to school, do you take God with you everyday?** – illus., God is everywhere

➤ - tips:

- **Phil. 4:4-7** pray, rejoice, enjoy school while doing the right things, have fun
- **Phil. 4:8-9** things to focus your mind upon – school, activities, band, sports
- **Ja. 3:2, 3-5, 6** pay attention to your words: tongue
 - be around a lot of bad language, tempting to participate, hard not to imitate

- **Thought questions:** Have you decided what part God is going to have in your life this school year? Have you decided how you are going to accomplish that this year? – **prepared your mind?**

➤ **Have you chosen Jesus as your role model? – Who do you admire and look up to?**

- **1 Pet. 2:21** Jesus has to be #1 role model

- **role model:** “a person whose behavior, example, or success is or can be emulated by others, esp. by younger people” (Dictionary.com)

➤ - **1 Jn. 1:1-4** to imitate Jesus, **must obey His word**, communicated in the **Bible**

- **illus.:** heard an interview before football game in t-ville, young people, student asked, who is your role model, said Jesus

- **I asked myself, “Would I have given the same answer?”**

- **What answer will you give this year, if you’re asked? – prepared your mind?**

➤ **How you decided what kind of friends you’ll have?**

- **1 Cor. 15:33** “Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals” – **visa versa**

- **What kind of friends are you going to choose? – prepared your mind?**

- friends typically a bigger influence on teen than anyone else

➤ **Have you decided to be a spiritual light at your school? – moral leader – illus.:** literally dark, school, no lights

- **Matt. 5:14-16** **light of the world**, not hide, shine light before men in such a way that God is glorify

- **Have you determined to glorify God in everything you do? – prepared your mind?**

- **Eph. 5:6-7, 11-12** **not deceived, not participate, expose darkness**

- **e.g.**, bad language, disrespectful attitudes, bullying, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, deceitful behavior, cheating

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **it’s not to late to get ready for school - spiritually – once you are ready, stay ready every day**

- prepare your mind

- put on your armor

- Jesus #1 role model

- choose good friends

- be a light, glorify God – moral leader

- **Jerry Flatt:** prayer for students returning to school

- **inv.:** to be ready for whatever you must face, being a Christian is the 1st important step