

“Preparing for Bad Times”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of June 24, 2023.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—This article is being written because of the weather event that occurred in East Texas on Friday, June 16. A storm hit the area. Following are some of the consequences from the storm.

- Many people were without electricity in their homes—as it took days for power to return to many homes. (While electricity was restored over the following days, there are still a few people in the surrounding cities who do not yet have electricity.)
- Since our church building was without electricity, we canceled our church service on Saturday, June 17. (We have a tradition of not canceling our church due to inclement weather, but the loss of electricity is the main reason.)
- Although electricity was restored to our building on Wednesday, June 21, we canceled our Bible study that night due to our building not having WiFi to transmit the service on the Internet. (On Thursday, we replaced a damaged router and our experienced people restored our WiFi. On Friday, the company that services our copy machine restored the connection of our computers to the copy machine.)

Reminder of lessons

Here are some quick observations of dealing with the loss of electricity in our homes and towns.

Since I consider myself to be a mild prepper (preparing for rough times), I will mention five observations.

- It has been obvious to me and to my mild-prepper friends that our preparing for rough times was not going to save us spiritually. We have a relationship with the Father and His Son. (None of my mild-prepper friends believe that their efforts replace a relationship with God.)
- Although our preparation was beneficial and helpful in this weather event, we found weaknesses to improve.
- It was rewarding (albeit tiring) to help people during this weather crisis.
- It was heartening to watch family members and neighbors help each other.

■ It was beneficial to watch neighbors (who had been disinterested in mild prepping or had been mocking toward those who did mild prepping) develop an informed point of view about commonsense habits of preparing for rough times.

Physical preparation

Following are some scriptures about preparing physically.

■ Genesis 41:29-57—Joseph prepared physically during seven good years and was therefore prepared to serve his family, neighbors, country and surrounding countries.

■ Acts 4:32-35—Some disciples in the New Testament worked together for the common good of others. (While some religious leaders use these verses to promote an approach where they seek to control how you spend your resources, I warn you to recognize controlling individuals and to be the author of your generous giving.)

■ Acts 11:27-29—Disciples in Antioch chose to help disciples in Judea.

n Romans 15:25-16—Disciples in Macedonia & Achaia helped disciples in Jerusalem.

Spiritual preparation

Following are some scriptures about preparing spiritually.

■ Matthew 22:36-40—We seek to love God completely and to love people.

■ Matthew 6:19-21—Although we use our physical resources to help family and others, we place our trust in the Father and Son.

■ Matthew 6:25-34—Although we seek to plan physically, we place our trust and emphasis in the Father and the Son.

■ Mark 10:17-22—We love the Ten Commandments, but we know that there are other important behaviors.

■ Mark 10:23-24—It is hard for those who trust in riches to enter the Kingdom of God.