

# CONTENTS

PREFACE .....	7
Part 1 Basic Philosophy and Personal Assessment <i>Am I really prepared?</i> .....	9
Part 2 Assessing Our Vulnerability <i>Reasons for preparedness</i> .....	13
Part 3 Implications of a Widespread Infrastructure Collapse <i>It could happen here!</i> .....	17
Part 4 Biblical Foundations, Truths and Principles <i>Clarifying and honing your convictions for a time of crisis</i> .....	21
Part 5 Guidelines for Responding <i>Anticipating the challenges of serving others</i> .....	31
Part 6 Contingency Planning for a Crisis <i>Considerations for what and how to prepare</i> .....	37
Part 7 Plan, Prepare, and Practice <i>Personal and family preparedness activities</i> .....	53
Part 8 Final Thoughts for Preparedness <i>Learning to be an overcomer</i> .....	63
ADDENDUM .....	67



Quickly improvised double paddle  
for a small boat in a remote lake

DISCLAIMER: The information provided is based on the research, experience and knowledge of the writer and is for reference and education. It is not intended to be a substitute for legal, dietary, medical or theological advice. The reader is advised to use discretion and to extend their research on the matters contained herein. Some of these materials may seem provocative or biased, but their intent is to serve as a guide into this subject. It is not intended to stand alone from other competent preparedness resources.

## FOREWORD

Today you can find a plethora of information on Emergency Preparedness. Generally, it is looked at with some suspicion because of negative press, those who espouse rather extreme views, and those who really don't know what they are talking about. However, Emergency Preparedness is a subject that should attract everyone's attention.

It does not really matter if you label a serious, unexpected or tragic event as a crisis, emergency, disaster, or an accident. What matters is how you respond to it as a Christian. If you have prepared yourself and your family, you can mitigate fear and move proactively as you cope with it. Perhaps it will present opportunities to help others.

In this *Introduction to Emergency Preparedness for Christians*, you will discover reasons why preparedness is relevant for you and your family. You may or may not face apocalyptic events, but there is a relatively high probability that you will face times of crisis. Step into this material with anticipation of what you may learn. The preparedness challenge awaits!

I want to thank my wife of 52+ years for her encouragement, patience and support through the development, editing and revision process. Her shared commitment to this topic and God's answers to her prayers are reflected in the content. To God be the glory!  
"...a prudent wife is from the Lord." (Proverbs 19:14)

## PREFACE

The **first edition** of this material was published in 2016. Originally conceived as a workshop, I realized that approach would have a limited reach. Therefore, I redesigned the materials in the current semi-workbook format. It is now an interactive, self-directed resource which can be easily distributed electronically or in print.

It is recommended that you go through this material with other family members, or with like-minded friends or neighbors. Note, however, that it targets a Christian context. It could be used as a supplemental resource to discuss in a small group setting. The benefit of doing it with others is the interaction it can generate as you consider your response.

The design and outline format are quite intentional. **Part 1** is a short self-assessment of your personal preparedness. It is intended to provoke interest. **Part 2** is a consideration of your need for preparedness due to potential natural and man-made disasters or emergencies which could affect you or others around you. In a worse-case scenario, **Part 3** describes what a wide-ranging infrastructure collapse might include. It is intended to invoke some “shock” at the potential severity of such an event. All of this sets up the Christian believer to consider biblical imperatives and admonitions presented in **Part 4**. The subtitle captures its essence: *Clarifying and honing your convictions for a time of crisis*.

From there, you are provided guidelines for the challenges of serving others in **Part 5** [added with this 4<sup>th</sup> edition]. Specific considerations for contingency planning are compiled in **Part 6**, which is formatted as an amplified outline for easy assimilation of the most pertinent information. Complementing this, **Part 7** stimulates your creativity as you delve into practical ways to begin and continue your prepping. **Part 8** concludes with a rationale for why we need to be thinking and practicing preparedness—so that we develop a natural awareness of the real world around us.

The **second edition** included some new and important materials. A special focus was placed on expanding and clarifying aspects of Part 4 on biblical foundations, since this is the whole basis for a Christian approach to preparedness. There were other minor changes related to clarifying or adding new comments where the text seemed unclear or incomplete in the first edition.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I quickly identified some gaps in the prior editions that were important preparedness issues. The **third edition** addressed some of those.

Recognizing the need to expand the availability of this material, this **fourth edition** has been reorganized and some material has been condensed in order to add new information. Now there are eight Parts with the addition of “Guidelines for Responding” (Part 5). In other places the information has been expanded or modified.

There are always additional topics which could be included, but it is my intent to keep this material easy to read and reference as an “introduction” to preparedness.

**This resource has been developed toward consideration of the American context.** However, the biblical principles are always universal. All the other content can, and should, be modified for application in contexts outside the USA, as appropriate.

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