

# PREPARING TO STAND

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“In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.” SW 3-21-05

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## That “Enmity” Thing by Jim Buller

Romans 8:7 says, “the carnal mind is enmity against God.” But what does this word, “enmity,” mean? We don’t use it very often, and we may be tempted to look over it and read on. It is a very important spiritual concept though; and we need to understand it, because it figures into our relationship with God in a significant way.

The word comes up again in James 4:4, which says, “you unfaithful people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?” And so, from these two verses we get the idea that “enmity” has to do with opposition toward God. But it is a bit more complicated than that.

The first time we find the concept of “enmity” in Scripture is in the third chapter of Genesis, right after Adam and Eve eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In the next verse, verse 7, they realize they are “naked,” and make clothing for themselves out of leaves. Then verse 8 tells about God coming to the garden, and Adam and Eve hiding from Him. Here we find that one of the first results of sin, is that it causes us to want to hide from God.

Because “all have sinned,” there has been something in all of us that wants to hide from God ever since. (Romans 3:23, see also Psalm 51:5.) Sinful human nature wants to keep some kind of barrier between us and God, or at least keep some distance between ourselves and Him. There doesn’t necessarily have to be open hostility as the word “enmity” somewhat implies, we just want God to stay over there and leave us alone.

This desire to hide from God, has been observed in young and old —and in my own heart. Currently, I believe it stems from “pride,” which is also associated with our sinful condition. We instinctively know who and what God is —the mighty all-powerful Creator. (See Romans 1:18-20). If we were to come in contact with Him, we would be forced to realize our responsibility to Him, and His authority over us. Facing Him would be humiliating. We would have to admit that we have not lived up to our responsibility, and we would have to submit to His authority. Therefore, we could no longer do what we want to do. (See also Galatians 5:17.) Our selfishness and pride just don’t want to deal with this. So our human nature is always trying to keep God away. This is what “enmity” is all about.

But remember, it was pride that caused Satan to fall. “Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, ‘Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.’ Ezekiel 28:17. ‘Thou hast said in thine heart, ... I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. ... I will be like the Most High.’ Isaiah 14:13, 14.” (*Patriarchs and Prophets* page 35.) But, “Lucifer was convinced that he was in the wrong. He saw that ‘the Lord is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works,’ (Psalm 145:17); that the divine statutes are just, and that he ought to acknowledge them as such before all heaven. Had he done this, he might have saved himself and many angels. He had not at that time fully cast off his allegiance to God. Though he had left his position as covering cherub, yet if he had been willing to return to God, acknowledging the Creator's wisdom, and satisfied to fill the place appointed him in God's great plan, he would have been reinstated in his office. The time had come for a final decision; he must fully yield to the divine sovereignty or place himself in open rebellion. He nearly reached the decision to return, but pride forbade him. It was too great a sacrifice for one who had been so highly honored to confess that he had been in error, that his imaginings were false, and to yield to the authority which he had been working to prove unjust.” (*Patriarchs and Prophets* page 39.) Let's not be like Lucifer, or we will end up like him. “Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord,” and let Him “lift you up.” (James 4:10.)

When God created us, He intended for us to have a close relationship with Himself. Ages ago it was observed that there is a God-shaped empty place inside each of us that only God can fill. Just as God came down to the garden after Adam and Eve sinned, to tell them about the plan of redemption, He is constantly trying to draw us back to Himself. “The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.’” Jeremiah 31:3. This is why Jesus came and died, so we could be brought back together with God. He said, “If I am lifted up” (on the cross) “I will draw all peoples to Myself.” “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” John 12:32, 10:10. God wants to bring us back to Himself and fill the emptiness and lack of fulfillment in all of us. Yet, we have all felt the conflict inside us, as one part of us wants to respond to God and let Him fill our emptiness, but another part wants to keep Him away. Let's not let our selfishness and pride keep us from connecting with God.

Satan know all about our enmity. He is constantly trying to take advantage of our desire to keep God at a distance; and he will distract us with *literally anything* that will keep us from connecting with God. A friend once pointed out that the Christian's choice isn't so much between good and evil—we know what evil is, and won't choose *it*—but *our* choice is between what is “good” and what is *best*. Satan has been very successful in distracting us with “good” things. By getting us to choose “good” things he keeps us from choosing the “best” thing. Our own enmity *can* cause us to be so busy working *for* God that we don't take time to actually *connect with Him*.

Notice also the following paragraph from *The Great Controversy* page 572. (All emphasis has been supplied.)

“A prayerful study of the Bible would show Protestants the real character of the papacy and would cause them to abhor and to shun it; but many are so wise in their own conceit that they feel no need of humbly seeking God that they may be led into the truth. Although priding themselves on their enlightenment, they are ignorant both of the

Scriptures and of the power of God. They must have some means of quieting their consciences, and *they seek that which is least spiritual and humiliating. What they desire is a method of forgetting God which shall pass as a method of remembering Him.* The papacy is well adapted to meet the wants of all these. *It is prepared for two classes of mankind, embracing nearly the whole world— those who would be saved by their merits, and those who would be saved in their sins.* Here is the secret of its power.”

Our enmity causes us to “seek that which is least spiritual and humiliating.” It causes us to quiet our consciences with “a method of *forgetting* God which shall *pass* as a method of remembering Him.” Both legalism —“those who would be saved by their merits”— and cheap grace —“those who would be saved in their sins”— are attempts to gain salvation while still keeping God at a distance. But neither are God’s way, and neither will get us into heaven. The truth is, we need God, and we need a Saviour. We need Him to invade our lives, and change our pride and our sinful, selfish, unresponsive hearts. (See Ezekiel 36:26-27.) Jesus says, “*abide* in Me” like a branch that stays connected to the vine. (John 15:1-6.) Please don’t let your enmity keep you from letting God live in you. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and *He* will lift you up.” (James 4:10.)

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“The strengthless condition of our people results from the fact that their hearts are not right with God. Alienation from Him is the cause of the burdened condition of our institutions.” *Testimonies to the Church Vol. 7 page 212*

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## Wilderness Sanitation and Hygiene

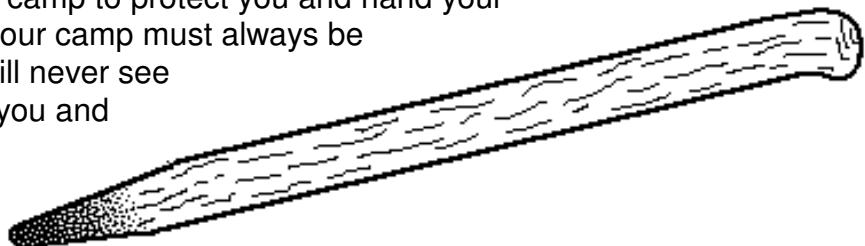
Proper hygiene and sanitation are especially important in the wilderness, as you do *not* want to get sick. Therefore, it is necessary for you to dispose of human waste properly, wash your body, and teeth regularly, and keep your cooking utensils clean.

### Human Waste

When you have to go to the bathroom, choose a hidden spot and dig a "cat-hole" about 6 inches/15 cm deep with your digging stick. If the you are in a rocky area turn over a good size rock using the cavity beneath. When you are done, cover the hole back up, or replace the rock. The fertilizer you leave behind is one way you can leave the area better than you found it, so choose your spot with this in mind.

"Choose a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself. You must carry a pointed stick as a part of your equipment. When you go outside to squat, dig a hole with it. When you're done, cover up your excrement. The Lord your God moves around in your camp to protect you and hand your enemies over to you. So your camp must always be holy. This way, the Lord will never see anything offensive among you and turn away from you."

Deuteronomy 23:12-14  
(GOD'S WORD)



## Toilet Paper Substitutes

The classic toilet paper substitute is leaves. Look for large strong leaves, even dead leaves can work—you may want to use several layers. It pays to know your plants, as you don't want to use poison oak, poison ivy, or stinging nettles! Certain types of moss also work good; and snow, if it holds together, can work too. Don't overlook the possibility of using smooth stones about the size of a medium potato.

## Washing

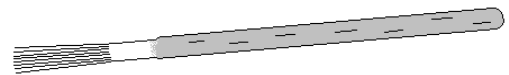
Do not wash dirty cooking utensils in streams or lakes as the food and creosote, (that black sticky stuff on the outside of pots after cooking over an open fire), will pollute the water. If you have to, just dip your cup or kettle in the water, filling it about half full, then grab a handful of sand, (or use some snake-grass,) and carry these back away from the water's edge to wash your dishes. If you need additional water, go back and dip up some more, but be sure to dump out all wash and rinse water well back from the water's edge so the refuse will have a chance to bio-degrade in the soil, rather than pollute the water. Better yet bury it as you would human waste. You can make a wash basin by making a small pit and lining it with plastic or a tarp. Carry water up from the creek to fill the basin, then you can use it to wash your dishes or take a sponge bath.

## Bathing

If you choose to bathe by swimming, it may be wise to do so during the warmest part of the day, rather than in the cooler mornings or evenings—thus working *with* nature rather than *against* it. Also, it would be a good idea to swim downstream from where you get your drinking water. Do not use soap, or soap plants in the streams, they *are* harmful to the fish. Use them back up on the bank away from the stream, the same as you would when washing dishes.

## Soap

Some wild plants, like Soap Root and the Yuccas, can provide natural soaps. Although these natural soaps usually don't make much lather, they do work—and they make good "shampoo" too.



## Brushing Teeth

Make a twig toothbrush by peeling one end of a willow twig, then smashing it. For toothpaste, you can do like the early Americans did, and use powdered charcoal, leaving your mouth and breath clean and sweet. Charcoal isn't "sticky," so it *does* rinse out, and does not leave your teeth black.

## Hair Brush

A simple hair brush can be made from a bundle of peeled twigs. Choose your twigs from a tree or shrub that has thin twigs that do not break easily. Wrap and tie the bundle together with cordage you have made.

## Deoderant

Ashes can be used for deodorant. It might not "last all day," but it does work. Collect cool ashes from around the edge of the fire pit, or after the fire has gone out.

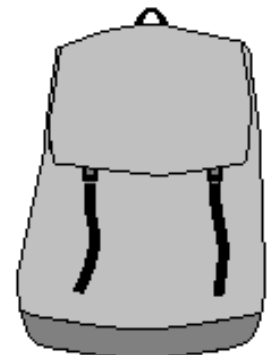
## Basic Individual “Grab and Go” Survival Kit Equipment

This list is based on the Survival Priorities and the Survival Priority Equipment. (See box). It is also put together with the idea of possibly having to travel through “civilized” areas before getting to the resources that would be more readily available in natural areas.

- Sock Cap
- Change of Socks & Underware
- Hiking Shoes/Boots
- Poncho or Large Plastic Trash Bag or Rain Gear
- Wool Blanket & Blanket Pin or Sleeping Bag
- Tarp (6x8 or 8x10) or Lightweight Tent
- Water Bottle(s) (1 to 10 quarts/liters)
- Water Purification (boiling, chemicals, or filter)
- Water Bag (to carry larger volumes of water)
- First-Aid Kit
- Flashlight or Headlamp
- Whistle for Signaling
- Bandanna and Cravat (“triangle bandage”)
- Comb/Hair Brush
- Tooth Brush
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toilet Paper (in a plastic bag)
- Feminine Hygiene Items
- Fire-Starter
- Food —for 3 Days (nuts, dried fruit, soup mix, granola bars ...)
- Cooking Pot (at least one quart/liter capacity)
- Spoon
- Knife (for carving)
- Machete ( $\pm 10$  inch/25 cm) and/or Folding Saw and/or Tomahawk
- Sharpening Stone
- Garden Trowel or Digging Stick or Walking Stick
- Twine and/or “Parachute” Cord and/or Rope (at least 50 ft/15 m)
- Pack and Bags (to keep all this in)
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Survival Priorities	Survival Priority Equipment
1. Shelter	Clothing & Footwear Bedding Roof / Walls
2. Water	Water Bottle
3. Health Concerns	Hygiene Items
4. Fire	Fire-Starter & Fuel
5. Food	Food Cook Pot & Utensils Cutting & Chopping
Tools:	Digging Cordage Containers

Put your equipment together as though you life depended on it —because it just might



Keep this equipment together so it can be easily grabbed-up on your way out. Work hard to keep the overall weight of the equipment in your kit from becoming so heavy that you end up leaving it behind at some point —aim for under 20 lbs/ 9 kgs.

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