

at the children, and panicking because you are running late.

Third, preparation comes by starting the morning by thinking about spiritual things. Direct your minds toward God. Prayer and Bible reading are ways to help.

Fourth, preparation comes by having our Bibles, Bible class materials, and other needed items ready to go. One does not want to go on a Bible hunt minutes before departure. This usually breeds frustration, family tension, and sometimes causes one to enter worship emptyhanded. As you would not leave your schoolbooks or briefcase at home during the week, don't leave your Bible on Sunday and Wednesday.

Fifth, preparation comes when we arrive early for Bible class and worship. This allows one to greet newcomers, visit with other members, put up coats or other articles of clothing, find a place to sit, and pick up congregational information (bulletin, outlines, prayer lists, calendar, other news, etc.). Teachers and others who are serving during the worship need to be extra early.

Sixth, preparation comes by taking a couple of minutes before worship begins and sitting quietly. To help, the men who run our audio booth ring the bell to let us know worship is about to begin. Use this time to read a portion of Scripture, pray, or meditate upon our Lord.

On Monday morning, many will awake early and begin their routines to prepare for school and work. The Lord demands no less; in fact, He demands our very best. Before we come before the God of Heaven, may we prepare our hearts, minds, spirits, and bodies by putting some of these suggestions into practice. —Slightly adapted

Very Little in a Big World

By Victor M. Eskew

Swim in the ocean. Stand in the desert. Climb the tallest mountain. Soar 15,000 feet above the earth. Ride into in outer space. Bump through a crowd of 50,000. Walk through a darkest forest alone. What will be the one thing that will be shown to each of us in these scenarios? We are really very small in our huge world. We want to think we are great. We want to think we are powerful. We want to think we are important. We want to think we have authority. We want to think we are all that.

But the truth is that each of us are but a dot in a massive universe. Too, this dot will eventually be removed from its place in the world. Our little dot will become particles of dust in the ground.

What make us important is God's love, Jesus' sacrifice, and the revelation of God's Word by the Holy Spirit. These things enable the human being to be elevated to the position of A CHILD OF GOD.

Let's not get lost in our "self importance." Instead, let's rejoice in the fact the we can be children of the Almighty.