

## PREACHER'S PATCH



I try my best to save electricity by switching appliances off (like the computer, TV, and radio) when not in use, rather than leave them on 'standby mode.' As I turn room lights off at night, I am still aware of all the other small LED lights glowing away – consuming energy, like the clock on the microwave, cooker, broadband hub, and indicator lights on extension leads. Data from a few years ago estimated that 'standby electronics' sits at 7.5% of an electricity bill. If we can avoid standby mode on our electrical appliances, we may see the benefit of financial savings.

However, when it comes to helping and serving people, it is essential that we all live in standby mode. Doctors, nurses, police, fire-fighters, and many others – are always on standby, ready for immediate deployment to assist to save lives. Every day, most of us are on standby, ready to offer lifts, look after a loved one, or step in to do something at short notice to help someone.

In the Bible, it is very clear God calls His people to be in 'standby mode' all the time when it comes to serving Him and others. Paul gave Timothy this charge concerning sharing the Word of God: "*Preach the Word: be prepared in season and out of season, correct, rebuke and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction.*" (2 Timothy 4:2) Peter instructed followers of Jesus to, "*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*" (1 Peter 3:15)

God wants us to share His blessings with others, not just in deed, but in words also as we talk about what Jesus means to us, and what He has done for us. This week, most of us will have an opportunity to be on 'standby to bless someone' we meet. Paul wrote to Titus saying "*... be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no-one, to be peaceable and considerate and always gentle toward everyone.*" (Titus 3:1-2)

**Jim Collins**