

Why "Clothe Yourselves"?

by Tricia Berg

My purpose is to post articles encouraging believers to prepare for the return of Jesus, the bridegroom of the Church. (John 3:29, John 17:6, Eph. 5:29-32, Col. 1:24, 1 Cor. 6:15-20, 2 Cor. 11:2, Rev. 19:7-8, Rev. 9:14, Rev.17:14) The words spoken to those who were waiting for the bridegroom, but as it turned out, were not ready in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins (half of their number!) are incredibly heart-breaking, enough to bring tears to my eyes: "I don't know you."

*"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But **at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'** Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, '**Lord, lord, open to us.**' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, **I do not know you.**' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." Matthew 25:1-13*

I don't want to hear those words, and I don't want anyone who *now* has "ears to hear" to hear them *then*. (Matt. 13:9, Matt. 13:16, Matt. 13:43, Mark 4:9, Mark 4:23, Mark 8:18, Luke 8:8, Rev. 2:7, Rev. 2:11, Rev. 2:17, Rev. 3:6, Rev. 3:13, Rev. 3:22, Rev. 13:9)

*"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. **He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**" Luke 14:34-35*

*"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, **let your light***

shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:13-16

I hope that all of us who love Jesus will put Him first and be ready, as well as encourage others to be ready, when He comes back for us so that we can be with Him where He is, forever.

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. Revelation 4:1-2

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." John 14:1-3

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an **open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet **you have kept my word and have not denied my name.** Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. **I am coming soon.** Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. The one who**

conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 3:7-13

*"And behold, **I am coming soon.** Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. **Worship God.**" And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for **the time is near.** Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." "Behold, **I am coming soon,** bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." **Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.** Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." **The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."** **And let the one who hears say, "Come."** **And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.** I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "**Surely I am coming soon.**" **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!** The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. Revelation 22:7-21*

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