

Meeting in the Air

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley

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Much time has passed, and scoffers have come; focus has been lost, and therefore our hope has waned. Jesus Christ gave His church a promise over 2,000 years ago. "I am going to prepare a place for you and then I am coming back to get you that where I am, you may be also! Have we forgot ten His promise? Do we still believe that promise? It is this promise that will reignite our hope and passion for Christ in this dark and weary world.

Let's Pray for the rekindling by the Holy Spirit of our understanding of the rapture of the church because soon and very soon we are going to see the king.

The bible gives us many visual lessons using earthly things to help us understand spiritual things. I would like to borrow from the book of Hebrews where in the twelfth chapter and the first verse, our life, especially as a follower of Christ, is described as a race, a foot race that we must run to win.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (Hebrews 12:1–2, NIV)

The writer of Hebrews points to the faithfulness of the Old Testament saints to exhort and encourage the New Testament saints – the church. The Old Testament saints did not know of the church. The church was a “mystery” until it was revealed by the Lord, Jesus Christ, to His apostles.

With the church a mystery, so was the rapture of the church which was also revealed by Christ to His apostles. **This would be the hope** and expectation of all who would come to be “in Christ” by being baptized into His body upon the new birth of the Holy Spirit.

“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:3, NASB)

“Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will 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 will be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:51–52, NASB95)

My friend, Heaven is our finished Line! Like every winner of any race, we must run to win! We must finish the course! **Standing in the winner’s circle** becomes and remains the number one focus of the winner’s lifestyle!

Jesus is coming back for His church! Are you ready?

The Race.

The course of our race has already been marked out for us by the life of Christ and the teaching of the bible, and the Holy Spirit has been given as our guide.

At some time in the 1800’s, there was a phrase coined and used, still today, in the competition of each foot race.

“On your mark, get set...GO!”

- To “get on your mark” is a call to get where you are supposed to be;
- to “get set” is the warning to get prepared, get in the right position. It signifies the closeness of time before the command is given.
- Then, suddenly comes the command “to go”, and the action of going is swift.

This phrase lends itself to every person in the church who wants to participate in the rapture of the church, and my friend it is coming! It is the next greatest event to happen on God’s divine calendar.

On Your Mark: Every believer in Christ is called to “GET ON YOUR MARK!”

“The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore, let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.” (Romans 13:12, NASB)

Every believer needs to get to his or her mark! Our mark is in the light of Christ!

- Our mark is in the church!
 - Hearing (Faith comes by hearing)
 - Serving (He's coming quickly and bringing rewards with Him)
 - Fellowship
 - Strength from one another
 - Accountability

- Our mark is in the Word of God
 - The bread of life for the soul
 - You are cleansed by the word.

- Our mark is in prayer!
 - Watch and pray: the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak
 - Fervent prayer accomplishes much.
 - Intimacy and closeness to God.

Get Set: On our mark we must Get Set!

- We get set by making God first in our life! (His kingdom and His righteousness)
- We get set by purifying our self from the pollution of the culture around us.

“And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” (1 John 3:3, NASB95)

- Love not the world for the world is passing away!
- What will one give in exchange for their soul?

Those who are set are looking forward to His appearance. (2 Timothy 4:8)

GO!!! Soon the Father will say, “Son, go and get My children!”

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18, NASB95)