

# A Churchless World

*Pastor Anthony J. Shetley*  
*Sunday, November 26, 2023*

What would the world be without the church? Well soon the earth will know for Christ is coming to take His church to their eternal home.

The bible is not silent when it comes to the days following the absence of the church. This is Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week – seven years of great tribulation.

Blessed be the church of Jesus Christ who He has made worthy to escape the day of wrath and judgment of God.

The church is a place of hope, a place where people on earth connect with the God in heaven, a place where there is divine activity.

The church is built with a redeemed people filled with the love of God. A chosen race of people wherein the Presence of God dwells, and **their presence** on this earth makes this world a better place.

One day soon, the Lord Himself is going to descend from heaven with a shout, and His church is going to be caught up to meet Him in the air to be with Him forever more. At that moment, the earth will be a churchless world and their absence will be felt.

What would a churchless world be like? Jesus gives us the answer.

*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:13–16, NASB95)*

The world without the church would be saltless –  
without the saline qualities of preservation, purification, and flavor.

The church is a spiritual saltshaker dispensing the saline qualities of the righteousness of Jesus Christ into the world.

1. The preserving qualities staying the judgment of God would be gone.

The church has the life of the Holy Spirit. We are being built for His dwelling place. With the Life of the Spirit in us, the antichrist is restrained from his mission in this world.

- With the presence of the church in this world, God is being served, worshipped, and glorified.
- The sinners are being witnessed to; preached to; and prayed for.
- The lost are being saved from the dominion of Satan and placed into the kingdom of God.

*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 NKJV)*

God employs the church in the exaltation of Christ through the witness of its members, the preaching of the gospel, and the making of disciples.

“You shall be witnesses to Me.” Acts 1:8

*How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14*

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19–20)*

2. The church has been entrusted with the gospel for the purification of souls.

1 Timothy 3:15 I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

(Truth) We are to preserve it; defend it; preach it; and most of all live it before the world!

By the truth our souls are made pure.

1 Peter 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls...

John 15:3 (NKJV) You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

The church that has lost these "saline" qualities has become good for nothing.

The church is the light of the world for it shines forth the light of Christ!

*"In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men."* (John 1:4) and this is the life that dwells in the church.

A churchless world would be one where spiritual darkness would prevail. Evil would be unrestrained. Hope would not exist.

*"remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."* (Ephesians 2:12)

This light is our safety and freedom from sin.

*"but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."* (1 John 1:7)

Soon and very soon, there's going to be a churchless world and I don't want to be in it. I want to be at that great meeting in the air.

I'm going to the Father's house where there are many dwelling places.

Jesus is still building His church and the gates of Hell still hasn't and never will prevail against it!

People, we need Christ; we need His church! The World needs Christ; therefore, the world needs us to be the church that Jesus has called us to be.

We must work while it is still day! The Night is coming for the light is leaving; then it will be too late!

We must make His coming our focus and live our lives like it could happen today!