

READY TO FLY

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**



dh 7.12.10

Ever get tired of this life? As a Christian, do you ever long for your home in heaven?

If you knew you were going to take a trip, you would get prepared right? You would get a ticket (in advance) for a plane, bus, or get the car ready by getting a tune up or tires, or whatever it would need to get you to your destination; along with the vehicle preparations, you would need to get yourself ready. Packing certain clothes for the climate, shampoo, toothbrush, etc.; you would also need to let others know of your plans and finally, automatically looking forward to the trip. Sometimes we don't know when the trip will be as in the case of a pregnant woman. When the time seems near, she has packed an overnight bag and has set it by the door to be prepared for a quick escape to the hospital.

If you're a Christian then you know we are going to take a trip...a trip UP to heaven someday. And whether that's by the 'catching up' spoken of in 1 Thess. 4, or whether we die first, eternal life with God is our destiny and our reward and could in fact, be closer than we think.

But how can we get ready for that day? Number one, make sure you have a ticket ie that you are a Christian. (John 3) If you are not a Christian, the first thing you need to do to get prepared for eternity is to be forgiven of your sins through receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. (Please see Romans 10:9-10, and email me at bigd@bigdblues.com for any questions about becoming a Christian) Another thing we need to do to be prepared for our departure from this world is to let others know we are leaving, in fact we are to go into all the world and 'preach the good news' letting others know they are invited to go on this trip as well; and finally, we

need to get our minds looking forward to leaving, being careful not to get too comfortable here...remembering that this world is not our home, we are aliens, as Christians, we don't belong here. But like the pregnant woman, we don't know when the LORD will come to pick us up, only that HE said He would, and we believe it. The way to be prepared for this eternal trip and especially as we see the time drawing near, is to be about our Father's business -reaching the lost, seeking first the Kingdom of God & His righteousness, encouraging and loving one another in Christ, and making sure our lives are a good representation of righteousness and holiness both inside and out; always striving to please the Lord.

So the next time you're feeling the pain of LONGING for the eternal stop light to turn green, remember, it could be any second, maybe today, maybe in the 43rd minute of the next hour, but whenever it happens, it will happen in an instant and this life with all its troubles will be a faint memory that is, if there is any room for remembering this life at all in light of His AWESOME PRESENCE!! Thus we shall ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD!

IN conclusion, Jesus is coming back sooner or later but either way we need to be ready. Remember the parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. Five were prepared (because they had packed extra oil for their lamps) and five were not. When the bridegroom came it mattered very much who was prepared. Those who were ready got to go, but those who were not were left behind....

ARE YOU READY TO FLY? It's literally something we should think about.

Peace IN, Big D:)