

# "Christian 7-Ups For Now Into Eternity"

Devotion Provided By Kenny Pettit

Today is an exciting time as a Christian to be alive. For Christians, the return of Christ our Bridegroom is imminent. That means each day we must live as though it could be our last and finish this race strong in a way that is pleasing to God. Described below are the 7-ups for now Into Eternity. 1. Look Up 2. Caught Up 3. Clothed Up 4. Cleaned Up 5. Cheered Up 6. Saddle Up 7. Time's Up.

1 "LOOK UP" Christians' now have the responsibility in these last days to "look up" and lift our heads because our redemption is drawing near (Luke 21:28,36-38). We focus on Christ Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). We are to daily "lift up" our prayers, worship and praise (Psalm 63:4,134:2). Jesus is coming so we must be courageous and tell others about the Good News of the saving grace of the Gospel of Christ (Matthew 28:19-20).

2. "CAUGHT UP" Paul describes Christians being caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53). John saw a scene of the Rapture of the Church hearing "Come Up here" as he was in the presence of God Himself (Revelation 4:1). John then saw the 24 Elders (the Church) surrounding God's throne worshipping Him in Heaven. Jesus told the church in Philadelphia that He would keep them from (not through) the hour of trial coming upon the whole world (Revelation 3:10). Paul mentions twice that God's Church is not appointed to receive God's wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9). During the 7 year Tribulation, God's wrath will occur (Revelation 6:17-18). The Antichrist can't make his Peace Treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:27) until the Church is taken out of the way (2 Thessalonians 2:3-7). After the word "church" is mentioned 19 times in Revelation 2-3, it never occurs again in Revelation 6-19 describing the 7 year Tribulation period. The phraseology even changes from specific warnings to the various churches as seen in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. Before the 7 year Tribulation, the Church will already be Raptured. The phraseology then changes to not addressing specific Churches (Revelation 13:9). "If anyone has an ear, let him hear."

3. "CLOTHED UP" (1 John 3:1-2, Philippians 3:21). Once we are in Heaven, each Christian receives our Christ-like glorified, imperishable body (1 Corinthians 15:35-54). David Jeremiah calls this event "The Extreme Makeover." In Heaven we will no longer be looking through a mirror dimly 1 Corinthians 13:12). After Jesus arose, He ate with the Disciples, could walk through walls, and was recognizable.

4. "CLEANED UP" (1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10). Each Christian shall stand before Jesus, one at a time, at the Judgement Seat of Christ. Our life and our serving the Lord will be examined and revealed with fire to test the quality of each Christian's work that was done for God's purpose and glory, not our own. If anything remains, we receive a reward.

5. "CHEERED UP" (Revelation 19:1-10). Think of the most enjoyable banquet or family reunion you have ever had. That dims in comparison to the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb." Each true Believer has a reservation at the table with our Bridegroom, Christ Jesus, to glorify and praise Him. It appears there will be music, food, and fellowship with our Savior in person. It is Him who is to be praised by us, His Bride. May we cast our crowns at His feet during this marvelous celebration. The Church is arrayed in fine linen, clean and white (Revelation 19:8).

6. "SADDLE UP" (Revelation 19:11-16, Jude 14, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, Zechariah 14:3-5).

Christians will "saddle up" on white horses to return with Jesus to earth at the end of the 7 year Tribulation. Jesus came the first time as the Lamb of God. This time Jesus returns as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah before the total destruction happens here on earth. The Devil will be bound 1,000 years into the bottomless pit during the 1,000 year Millennium here on earth (Revelation 20:1-4). Believers will reign with Christ Jesus who will rule the world from Jerusalem as the world has peace. Then Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire forevermore (Revelation 20:10). There will then be a Great Throne Judgement for unbelievers of all time (Revelation 20:11-15).

7. "TIMES UP" After all these events a New Heaven, and a New Earth will then descend and will replace the old one (Revelation 21,22). New Jerusalem is our eternal glorious city, our eternal home, with our eternal Bridegroom Christ Jesus forever. Gates of pearl, streets of gold, colorful and sparkling gems, and no more sin. Revelation 21:4, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Are your papers in order, and is your name written in the Lamb's Book Of Life of all Christians (Revelation 13:8)? If not, please "look up" and receive Christ as your Savior before "time is up."

Jesus is coming again. He offers His gift of salvation for all to now receive. Your choice to receive or reject His gift of salvation will be final when you die and your final destination will remain the same throughout eternity. John 1:12, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to believe in His name: "