

The Bride of Christ in the Latter Days

Hebrews 12:1-2; Matt. 25

Main Point

The Bride of Christ is a reference to the universal church of faithful believers from all time. The Bible says we are surrounded by the "cloud" of believers who have crossed the finish line already, and they are cheering us on, . They would shout the cheer to us, "Hold on, we made it and you can too! It's all real and glorious, and waiting for you! Persevere at any cost until you join us!"

But there is another message they would convey to us as well, "Do not be entangled in sin, it is a weight that will hold you back from God. Patiently run the race God has set before you. Maintain closeness to God and yield to His Holy Spirit in your life. Don't be deceived into a false sense of security by the motions and shell of Christianity. Keep diligent in your faithful work and life for the Lord, loving, helping, and saving people until your last breath.

A Virgin Church is a Church Pure from the World

Jesus once referred to the last days generation as an evil and adulterous generation. Evil is obvious, but adulterous speaks of the church containing a segment that is unfaithful to Christ by having relations with the world.

The Prepared Bride is a Diligent Bride

She has kept her lamp trimmed and oil full. Her walk and relationship with Christ is fresh, alive, and filled with faith and devotion.

The Panicked Bride is a Careless Bride

Procrastination of growth and faith will lead the latter days' bride of Christ into complacency. They will not be able to "catch up" when Christ comes.

Christ Wants His Church Working Right Up to His Coming

The parable of the talents in Matt. 25 shows Christ is pleased with any degree of faithful devotion and work for Him and rewards it. His disdain is harsh for the one who knows what He is like, knows what He expects, but disregards all that and does nothing.

Christ Warns of the Danger of Shallow or Pseudo-Devotion

Some will not labor for Christ at all and will still feel they belong to Him. Some will labor but with self-gratifying motives. Both will be sorely surprised in the end.