Hebrews 13:14 (NLT2)

For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come.

In the last 13 years, I have been to Israel three times, and every time I planned to go I would pay in advanced to get the best deal. But then there is also the anticipation of going to Israel and that anticipation is like being a kid at the beginning of November waiting for Christmas to come the end of December.

I don't know about you, but I am also extremely excited about going to Heaven and being with my Savior, Jesus. For this trip to heaven, I don't have to worry about paying for it, because the price has already been paid for me to get there, and it was paid for by Jesus, who shed His blood by dying on the cross for me. But not just me, but for you also so we can all go to heaven.

But are you really excited? I mean, think about it? Is there anything in this world that would cause you to say to Jesus, *"Hey Jesus, can you wait a little longer until I _____"* what?

Get Married.
Get that job you have always wanted.
Get that new car you have been working so hard to buy.

I mean if Jesus said, ok, I am giving you one more year here on this earth before I return for my bride, the Church (us a believers) what would you do or buy over the next year before we were raptured?
Would you spend it getting wedding plans ready and marrying that special someone and focusing all your time on that?
Would you spend it working your way up the corporate ladder so you could have a nice nest egg when you retire or to have something for your kids when you are gone?
Would you just waste all you have away by spending it on stuff until you have no more money?

I know when I was going to Israel, each time I would spend the year making sure I had everything I needed for my trip, so I wouldn't have to run around at the last minute getting everything, which reminds me of this parable that Jesus told

- **Matthew 25:1-13** ***Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they***

went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'
Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Preparing for Jesus' return, isn't that what we should be doing? We don't know if the rapture will happen in a year, ten years or ten seconds from now. But if you are really that excited about being raptured and going to Heaven, what are you doing to prepare for it. Even more so, are you taking others with you to heaven and what are you doing to make sure they are prepared as well?

- **Philippians 1:21-24** ***For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.***