The Preparation of the Bride

I feel as if I was so rushed in presenting the Bride of Christ material I omitted some important distinctions:

1. The Church is a metaphor for the Bride in some parts of Scripture, although New Jerusalem is mentioned as the Bride in others. As you can see from the lesson, the Bride can refer to both.
2. Some Bible teachers that oppose the Church as being the *sole* object as the Bride mention that the Bride does not make herself ready, but the Holy Spirit does.
3. We need to remember that although we are saved by faith, and not by works, as we learned from looking at Scripture for all our past lessons, we *do have an active role in preparation* because what we **do** (our “works”) demonstrate what we **believe** (our faith). This is most clearly seen from James chapter 2. Although it is not our “works” that earn our salvation, our “works” (what we **do**) does demonstrate what we actually believe.
4. In looking at the Tribuation, we saw that the purpose of tribulation is to strengthen and equip us. See Romans 5, Romans 6-8, and Acts 14.22 (Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.)
5. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken (Hebrews 12.27) and judgment begins at the house of God (1 Peter 4.17). *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober* (1 Thessalonians 5.6, also see 1 Thessalonians 5.7-8).

Matthew 5:***44****Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.****45****Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?****46****Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.*