

Waiting For Jesus

Text : **Titus 2: 1-15**

A. Do you like to wait ? Most of us don't.

S#1.

S#2.

1. Around the world the stereotype of Americans is “*Americans don't like to wait.*”
2. Stereotypes develop for a reason ... most Americans don't like to wait.
3. Examples :
 - a. When you call and get put on hold ... how long before you become impatient ?
 - b. How do you react in the checkout line when one persons takes very long ?

B. People have great anticipation when they wait for something good.

S#3.

1. Example : Friend's daughter waiting for her sister to come home from camp.
Ran to the window in response to every noise; and finally stood there.
When the big sister entered the house, little sister ran to embrace her.
2. On the mission field I pestered the post office asking about box w/ Lipton tea in it.
3. Online marketers multiply their profits selling “expedited shipping.”

We should have this attitude of anticipation about the coming of our Lord.

S#4.

I. Our text demonstrates how receiving grace changes our perspective on life.

S#5.

A. Before being saved by grace through faith, we were like everyone else.

S#6.

Eph. 2: 1-3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you **S#7.**
formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the
prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons
of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of
our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by
nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

B. Once in Christ we change our value system resulting in changing our lives.

S#8.

Eph. 4: 22-24 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside **S#9.**
the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of
deceit, **23** and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and put
on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in
righteousness and holiness of the truth.

C. Our text conveys that every Christian must change.

1. **Older men** ... Sound in the faith, in love, in steadfastness, temperate, dignified
2. **Older women** ... Reverend, not gossips, not drinkers, trainers of the young

3. **Younger women** ... Love husband & children, keep the home, kind, submissive
4. **Younger men** ... Exemplify good deeds, sound in doctrine & speech, dignified
5. **Servants** (*employees*) ... Obedient, seek to please, not argue, not steal
- * 6. **All Christians** .. deny ungodliness, deny desires of body, live righteously, sensibly

D. WHY ? Live in anxious expectation of our Lord's return for us. **S#10.**

1. **Titus 2: 13** – looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, **S#11.**
2. **I Cor. 1: 6-8** even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. Why should Christians eagerly await the coming of the Lord ? **S#12.**

A. We anxiously await our Lord's arrival because He will bring our reward. **S#13.**

1. **II Tim. 4: 7-8** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; ⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. **S#14.**
2. **Matt. 19: 29** – And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life. **S#15.**
 - a. It's never a sacrifice because no one can out give God.
 - b. Whatever we do for God here is like planting a seed. (*How many apples in a seed ?*)
3. **Rev. 22: 12** – Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. **S#16.**
4. We can trust Jesus to keep his promises.
 - a. **I Thes. 5: 24** – Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
 - b. **Heb. 10: 23** – Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; (Cf – **Jas. 1:12, 2:5**) **S#17.**

B. We anxiously await the arrival of Jesus because we want to see Him glorified.

1. **Matt. 25: 31** – But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. **S#18.**
2. **Titus 1: 13** – looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,
3. **Phil. 2: 10** – so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

4. **II Thes. 1: 9-10** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—.... **S#19.**

C. We anxiously await the arrival of Jesus because we want to be with the great host of all the redeemed. **S#20.**

1. **I Thes. 4: 15-17** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** 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. **17** 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. **S#21.**
2. Every Christian who has ever lived will be together ... the Apostles, the martyrs ...
3. All those in the Lord that we have loved and lost will be there. **S#22.**

III. Living in expectation of Jesus' return is fundamental to Christian Character. **S#22.**

A. The Lord's coming is characterized as the coming of the bridegroom. **S#23.**

1. **Matt. 25: 1ff** ... Parable of the 10 virgins
2. **John 3: 29** ... John the baptizer pictures Jesus as the bridegroom.
3. The church is pictured as the bride of Christ.
 - a. **Eph. 5: 22-33** ... Relationship between Christ and His church like man and wife
 - b. **II Cor. 11: 2** – For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin
4. Unlike an American wedding, the Jewish bridegroom went to get his bride from her father's house and took her to his own house.
 - a. The bride prepared herself to the best of her ability.
 - b. She received the groom with great joy ... there was a procession to his house.
5. The bride of Christ longs for His appearing and receives Him with great Joy.

B. The return of Jesus is a major theme of the N.T. ... for example, every chapter in I Thessalonians ends with a reference to His coming. **S#24.**

1. **I Thes. 1: 10** – and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come. **S#25.**
2. **I Thes. 2: 19** – For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

3. **I Thes. 3: 13** – so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.
4. **I Thes. 4: 13-18** ... Christ will come, the dead in Christ will rise and all meet Jesus
5. **I Thes. 5: 23** – Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

S#27.

C. A Christian who is not anxious for the return of the Lord needs a faith checkup.

S#28.

IV. Those who do not believe or are not anxious for His return also will see Him.

A. Every one who has ever lived will see Jesus when He comes.

1. **Rev. 1: 7** – Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.
2. **Phil. 2: 10** – so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
3. **John 5: 21-29** ... Everyone who is in the grave will be raised .. *Heaven or Hell*

B. No one will escape judgment.

S#29.

1. **Matt. 25: 31f** ... Jesus will judge ALL nations ... divide left and right.
2. No one will be left behind; the earth will cease to exist.

II Pet. 3: 10 – But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

S#30.

V. How should we respond to the promise of His return ?

S#31.

A. We must live in holiness always being ready for His return.

1. **II Pet. 3: 10-11** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! S#32.
2. **I Thes. 5: 4-6** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ⁶ so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. S#33.

B. Christians must take advantage of the patience of God to serve do His work.

1. **Eph. 5: 15-17** Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as **S#34.**
wise, **16 making the most of your time**, because the days are evil.
17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
2. We must follow the example of Jesus.
John 9: 4 – **We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day;**
night is coming when no one can work.

C. Even some Christians are not eager for the Lord to come.

1. Some are not sure their sins are forgiven and fear judgment. (**Grace vs Works**)
2. Some have weak faith and fear the unknown.
3. Some know their loved ones are lost and hope they'll be saved. (**Teach them**)
- * 4. Can you imagine someone winning the 800 mil. lottery and not wanting the check.
Any Christian who is not eager for the Lord to come should examine his faith. S#35.

D. Those outside of Christ are not interested in the Lord's return.

1. Many scoff in disbelief.
II Pet. 3: 3-4 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come **S#36.**
with their mocking, following after their own lusts, **4** and saying,
"Where is the promise of His coming?" For ever since the fathers fell
asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."
2. Many more are wrapped up in the things of this world.
Rom 8: 5-7 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the **S#37.**
things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things
of the Spirit. **6 For the mind set on the flesh is death**, but the mind set on
the Spirit is life and peace, **7** because the mind set on the flesh is hostile
toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not
even able to do so,
3. These will be caught up unawares, but they will face God ... ready or not ?
I Thes. 5: 3 – **While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will S#38.**
come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child,
and **they will not escape.**

CONCLUSION :

- A. When the Lord comes, will you run to Him or run from Him ? **S#39.**
- B. Are you ready to meet Him ? Do you "**hasten the day**" of His coming. **S#40.**

INVITATION : Today could be the day. Are you prepared to meet God ?**S#41.** ... communion slide

Lesson Text :**Titus 2: 1-15**

1 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. **2** Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, **4** so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, **5** *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; **7** in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified, **8** sound *in* speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

9 Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, **10** not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, **14** who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. **15** These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.