

It's Worth The Wait

Text : **James 5: 7-11 ; II Peter 3: 3-13**

- A. Worldwide Americans are notorious for not wanting to wait for anything.** S#1. S#2.
1. Our prosperity has allowed impatience to become part of our national character.
 2. We anticipate that we will achieve or receive so our attitude is “*Just do it already.*”
 3. Young people dig themselves into debt seeking to start off with all their parents have
 4. Young people graduate from college and expect to start off with a high salary, etc.
- B. From childhood we are impatient with things we cannot control.**
1. When traveling children become a pest asking, “*Are we there yet?*”
 2. The closer we draw near to Christmas the more impatient children become.
 3. We just could not wait until we are old enough to drive. (*I purchased car at 15 ...*)
 4. Our senior year we could hardly wait to graduate and conquer the world.
 5. My late wife could hardly wait for that first child to get out of her. (*Broke ankle*)
- C. As Christians, our faith is tested by our patient waiting for Jesus to come.** S#3.
1. **James 5: 7-8** – Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.
The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. **8** You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
 2. James wrote to encourage those Jewish Christians who were scattered by **Acts 8.**
 3. The consistent teaching of the N.T. is that the return of Jesus may be imminent. S#4.
 - a. Vs, **8** – .. strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
 - b. **Phil. 4: 5** – Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near
 - c. **I Pet. 4: 7** – The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment
- D. The coming of the Lord does not always refer to the end of time judgment.** S#5.
1. It is referred to in the judgment on the Jews / Jerusalem in 70 A.D. S#6.
Mark 13: 29 – see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.
 2. It is referred to in the judgment against Rome.
Rev. 1: 3 – and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.
 3. Secondly, all of the comings in judgment point toward His coming on the last day.
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.

I. God has a plan for the return of the Christ to redeem our bodies.**S#7.****A. God's plan for man is eternal.**

1. God's plan to redeem man was formulated before man was created.

S#8.

Eph. 3: 11 – This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. **13** Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

2. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was part of God's eternal plan.

Acts 2: 23 – this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

S#9.

3. God's entire plan was formulated before the foundation of the world.

I Pet. 1: 20 – ... the blood of Christ. **20** For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you **21** who through Him are believers in God,

B. God's eternal plan includes an exact day when Jesus will return to claim His own

1. God has fixed a day for Jesus to return,

Acts 17: 30-31 – Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, **31** because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

S#10.

2. As with the judgment of Jerusalem, God does not publish when judgments will come.

Matt. 24: 36 – But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

S#11.**C. God is not late in sending Jesus back to retrieve us.**

1. God is working on a schedule.

Gal. 4: 4 – But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son,

2. God's schedule is not measured by time as we know it. (*Time is irrelevant to God*)

I Pet. 3: 8 – But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

D. The delay works to our advantage and to God's advantage as well.**S#12.**

1. It gives people an opportunity to repent and turn to God.

I Pet. 3: 9 – The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

2. While Christians are on the earth they act as ambassadors to bring others to God.
 - a. **II Cor. 5: 20** – Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **S#13.**
 - b. **I Pet. 2: 9** – But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, **so that** you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (You were saved, you exist for a purpose.)
3. If one accepts the authority of Jesus, he must pursue his mission proactively.

Matt 28: 18-20 – And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority **#14** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always,..."

II. Our faith is tested by our attitude toward the coming of the Lord. **S#15.**

- A. Our faith is tested when we are tempted to doubt that Jesus will return. **S#16.**
 1. **James 5: 7** – Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. **11** – We count those blessed who endured.
 2. The great heroes of the faith endured.
 - a. Job
 - b. Abraham
 - c. Joseph
 - d. Moses
- B. Our faith is tested when the world ridicules our faith.
 1. **II Pet. 3: 3-4** – Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come **S#17.** 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. **II Thes. 2: 1-2** – Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our **#18.** Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, **2** that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. **3** Let no one in any way deceive you,
- C. Knowing that the Lord may come at any time affects our manner of life. **S#19.**

II Pet. 3: 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

III. Live in anticipation of the return of our Lord to take us home with Him. S#20.

A. Those who have been slain in the service of the Lord long for His coming.

1. The martyrs await the justice of the Lord. *"Vengeance is mine, say the Lord, I will repay"*
Rev. 6: 9-10 – When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar **S#21.**
the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and
because of the testimony which they had maintained; **10** and they cried
out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You
refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"
2. Souls without their body are naked.
II Cor. 5: 2-3 – For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed **S#22.**
with our dwelling from heaven, **3** inasmuch as we,
having put it on, will not be found naked.

B. Christians anxiously long for the coming of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. S#23.

1. Christians are eager for the return of Christ and their new bodies.
Phil 3: 20-21 – For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait **S#24.**
for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **21** who will transform the body of
our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the
exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
2. We live looking for the blessings that we were promised when Christ returns.
Titus 2: 11-13 – For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all **S#25.**
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,

C. It is the desire of Christians to hasten the day of the coming of the Lord.

1. **II Pet. 3: 11-13** – Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what **S#26.**
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! **13** But according to His promise we are
looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
2. **Rev. 22: 20** – He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly."
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

D. The day the Lord comes back will be a time of great joy for every Christian.

1. **Jude 24** – Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and **S#27.**
to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,
2. **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.

IV. Our hope will not disappoint; it's worth the wait.**S#28.****A. We are saved in hope of the return of our savior.**

Rom. 8: 18-25 – For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **S#29.**
19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope **S#30.**
21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. **23** And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves **S#31.**
groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. **24** For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?
25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

1. Biblical definition of “hope”:

- a. It is in reference to a delay, **not** the element of chance.
- b. Confident expectation of that which is to be received in the future.

2. We stand in the stand of having been saved right now.

Eph. 2: 8 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not ...

3. Our salvation is not in doubt.

I John 5: 13 – ... I have written ..., so that you may know that you have eternal life.

4. When Jesus returns, our salvation will be fully complete ... NOT in hope.**B. It will be a great and glorious day.****S#32.**

- 1. **II Tim. 4: 8** ... We will receive a crown of righteousness
- 2. **Rom, 8: 23** ... We will receive our new body
- 3. **I Thes. 4: 13-18** ... We will go to be with our God and Savior Jesus the Christ
- 4. **Rev. 21-22** ... We will live in Heaven eternally (*Like God, eternity just is.*)
- 5. **I Thes. 4: 13-18** ... It is a day of separation from ALL evil.
- 6. **I Thes. 5: 2** ... It will come as a surprise, like the flood of old, like a thief at night

INVITATION : When Jesus takes His own home with Him, where will you be? **#33.**

S#34. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**James 5: 7-11**

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. **8** You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. **9** Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. **10** As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

II Peter 3: 3-13

3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come 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." **5** For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, **6** through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. **7** But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. **9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

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.

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! **13** But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.