

Wait for the Lord

Scripture

“Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to [the degree] that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, [that they are] the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end [is] destruction, whose god [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame— who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” (Philippians 3:15-21 NKJV)

Thesis

Believers are to wait for their satisfaction in heaven.

Commentary

Impatience is one of the great sins of this age. Our society runs or stalls on credit. People have put themselves in bondage for this toy or that gadget just because they can't wait long enough to save their money.

This same impatience is seen in those who want to be at ease before they see the glory of God. They want satisfaction in this world. Therefore, they seek after those things that are forbidden to their own ruin.

Paul is our model. He calls us to follow his pattern. What was this pattern but to count all things loss for Christ! Is this how you think? Is this pattern of self-denial evident in your life?

Many are the enemies of the cross. Paul describes them as those who have their minds set on earthly things. Their god is their belly; they want to be filled with all things now.

There is coming a time when we will be conformed to His glorious body, a body that has no needs, and is without pain or sorrow. However, that time is not now. We are to wait patiently for that day as we press on for the prize.

A mature believer is a patient believer. Paul began this comment by saying, “as many as are mature.” The Christian life is not a quick fix. It is a long haul. People come to Christ seeking to fix all kinds of things: broken marriages, drug addictions, or just a generally messed up life. While God can certainly do wonders to repair these situations, if this is the only reason you came to Christ, then my friend you may be in trouble.

You must see beyond your symptoms to the root. You must see your sinfulness and repent as you turn to God. Wanting a problem fixed can just be another selfish act. Those who truly come to Christ deny themselves as they take up their cross to follow Him (Mark 8:34-38).

Are you willing to have patience? Are you willing to wait for the Glory of God to be revealed? Then follow Paul's example and live for the next world and not this one. Then you will have the prize someday. Then you will be comforted.

Father, we live in a quick-fix society. We want instant gratification. Forgive our lack of patience. Give us eyes that can focus on eternity and not earthly things. We need your mercy Lord. Help us to live sacrificially until that day when we are transformed and our bodies are conformed into your glorious body, amen.