

### ***Working While Waiting***

*“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).*

As Christians, we are in the “hurry up and wait” phase of redemptive history. Jesus has accomplished His saving work at the cross in His first coming and you and I now await the glorious day of His triumphant Second Coming. We are to look to heaven in the sure hope of Jesus’ arrival, but we aren’t to look in a way where we get a crick in our neck... In other words, while we wait, we must put our heads down and work for Jesus!

I find the words of the angels at Jesus’ Ascension so intriguing... First off, try to imagine what these apostles just experienced... They literally just saw Jesus ascend and float on up into the clouds of heaven with great glory. This must have been an amazing experience! I am sure Peter and Thomas’ jaws were completely dropped... And yet, the angels didn’t give them long to stand there and ponder all that they had just witnessed... Rather, it’s as if they said in John Wayne fashion, “Now, come on boys your burning daylight we have a lot of work to do until Jesus comes back...”

When Paul was writing to the church in Thessalonica he put great emphasis on the Second Coming of Christ. The first mention of this great event in the book of 1 Thessalonians comes at the end of the first chapter where Paul writes that as Christians we are “to wait for his Son from heaven” (1:10). But in the same context of this passage in the previous verses Paul commended the Christians for their “work of faith and labor of love” (1:3). And so, which is it? Do we wait? Or do we work? Or do we wait and work?

I am convinced that the best way to wait for the Lord’s Second Coming is as the hymn writer puts it: “Work till Jesus comes!” In other words, it is our work of faith that clarifies our waiting in hope... Throughout the Old Testament the words “wait” and “trust” are used as synonyms. Meaning that in the Hebrew language and culture, it was known that to “wait on the Lord” meant that you were trusting in the Lord. And to “trust in the Lord” meant that you were waiting on the Lord. (See Isaiah 40:31 for an example of this). And so, if one really does trust in the Lord there should be some sense of motivation to get busy for God and work unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23).

And so, until the trumpet sounds... And until the archangel shouts... And until Christ Jesus descends from heaven... And until the Son of Man comes in the clouds with great power and glory, may you work hard for Jesus! Because one day very soon you’re working and waiting will be rewarded in full as you see your Master and King face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 3:2). Let’s get to work!

Respect the Blood,  
Dalton Mathis