

## Waiting And Hastening

Very few words seem to contradict each other more than “waiting” and “hastening.” While waiting for our first grandchild to be born we also want, with great expectation, for the event to hasten. So, I decided to write this article while waiting and hastening.

A lot of words have multiple meanings, such as the word “wait” or “waiting” however few have such diverse meanings. The word waiting often means to be patient, longsuffering; also, it can mean to serve. For instance, a “waiter” is one devoted to providing what is needed or desired by the one he or she is waiting on. In the Bible we are told to wait on the Lord. “Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!” (Psalms 27.14) There are times when we have to be patient in serving God. “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.” (Ecclesiastes 3.11) For instance in seeking vengeance and justice we are told they belong to God. Sometimes people want it to come quickly but there are times when it might not happen until the day of Judgement. David realized this when it came to Shimei. Absalom had rebelled against his father and David was forced to leave Jerusalem with his faithful followers. Shimei came to the King on the road and maliciously accused David of deserving this fate. “Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: “Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue! “The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!” (2 Samuel 6.7-8) Some of David’s men offered to kill Shimei for being so disrespectful to the King. However, David would have none of it and told them to leave Shimei alone for it may be God’s will for David to be cursed by this man. Once Absalom’s rebellion was quenched and he was dead, Shimei came asking for mercy from David and it was granted.

It was later when Shimei violated the conditions placed on him by David and he was killed. Such patience is hard to have due to our view of time and limited knowledge but we can be assured that it will be rewarded.

The word “wait” can mean to serve. I will admit it is not used this way in the Bible but it is used in our English language to mean to serve. As such we wait on the Lord when we faithfully keep His word. “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3.23-24) So, what are we doing while we patiently wait on the Lord? Are we serving Him faithfully? Are we loving one another as the Bible directs? Are we remembering His death every first day of the week by observing the Lord’s Supper? Are we spreading His word to a lost and dying world? Are we seeking the unity of the spirit with our brethren? I think you get the idea. What are we actually doing while we wait for the Day of the Lord?

While doing all this “waiting” we are also to be hastening. “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” (2Peter 3.11-13) There are numerous things we should not forget. First, this world will end shortly. We are like children who think time is “taking forever” when it is really a little while. Since we know the end of this world will come when Christ arrives and then the Day of Judgment let us look forward to that day. My second point is this could come anytime/any day. We need to be ready today to face the Lord. Even if Christ does not come today we might die today. Read the obituaries in the newspaper and seen the variety of ages of those who died. Some are infants, others children, teenagers killed in an auto wreck, adults who died of cancer or disease, and the elderly who have lived long. In each case that person is now waiting for the Day of

Judgment. We need to be eagerly serving God with great anticipation of Christ's return. This means we need to be ready now!

As we wait in this waiting room for our Grandson to be born I wonder how long it will take and praying he and his mother will be healthy. Such is the nature of waiting and hastening. –Dennis Tucker