

As You Wait; Jude 17-23

I. Waiting

- A. Watching a tennis match
- B. Christianity can seem that way as we file into the pews and watch the song leader and preacher walk back and forth
- C. But that is not how it is supposed to be
- D. Look forward to, eagerly await

II. Build

- A. This is an active word and is ongoing
- B. To continue construction of an unfinished building (which is already somewhat established)
- C. We must continue to construct our most holy faith
 - 1. To continue to agree with God that Jesus is the Messiah
 - a) That He sacrificed himself in order to satisfy God's wrath over our sin
 - b) That His blood cleanses us from our sins
 - c) Acts 2:36; Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."
 - 2. We must continue to live for Him
 - a) To search the Scriptures is great (and needed)
 - b) To live the Scriptures is required
 - c) Mark 7:5; And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?"
 - d) Romans 6:4; We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
 - e) 2 Corinthians 5:7; for we walk by faith, not by sight.
 - f) Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
 - g) 1 Thessalonians 2:12; we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.
 - h) 1 John 1:7; But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
 - 3. To accept the teachings of Jesus in the Scriptures as truth
 - a) 2 Peter 1:16-21; 16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
 - b) We cannot make up our own ideas, but must follow what God has given us

- c) Mens' interpretations is what has given rise to denominationalism (Satan's greatest victory in this war of Good verses evil)
 - d) They use (misuse) the Scriptures to prove their personal theology instead of accepting God's truth
- D. As we wait for Jesus, we build ourselves up in the most holy faith
- 1. By our acceptance of the Christ as the Messiah,
 - 2. Living out God's word in our lives,
 - 3. Accepting God's word as the complete truth

III. Praying

- A. In the Spirit
- B. To petition God
- C. Matthew 6:9–13; 9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 - 1. Recognize God as the Almighty (omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent)
 - 2. Recognize it is God's will that we must be doing and not our own
 - 3. Recognize that God is the one who provides for our needs
 - 4. Recognize that forgiveness is from God and is our example
 - 5. Recognize that God provides the escape from our temptations
- D. God's armor in Ephesians 6
 - 1. The belt of truth
 - 2. The breastplate of righteousness
 - 3. The Gospel of peace for our shoes
 - 4. The shield of faith
 - 5. The sword of the Spirit
 - 6. Ephesians 6:18; praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
 - 7. We often miss that part of the whole armor of God is praying in the Spirit!
- E. Romans 8:26; Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
- F. As we wait for Jesus, we pray in the Spirit

IV. The Love of God

- A. Keep - to guard, to obey; to conform your actions to; to keep in a certain state
- B. Continue to obey the love of God
- C. We have been guilty of overemphasizing our initial salvation but failing to encourage a life a service and sacrifice in Christ (hence the watching tennis analogy)
- D. There is no paradox in seeing our salvation as a gift from God for those who are willing to give their lives in service to Him.
- E. God has chosen to deal with us in covenants
 - 1. These promises have benefits and requirements
 - 2. We often extol the benefits and neglect to requirements
 - 3. God's love draws us to Him
 - a) John 3:16; "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
 - b) 1 John 4:16; So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

4. But His covenant demands our response
 - a) Philippians 2:12–13; 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
 - b) This is not some mental problem we are trying to figure out like some logic puzzle or the Rubik's Cube
 - c) This means to work, to answer the call of service in God's Kingdom
- F. To keep yourself in the love of God means to obey Him, to be a servant in His Kingdom
 1. Mark 9:35; And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."
 2. Luke 22:24–27; 24 A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. 25 And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. 26 But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. 27 For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.
- V. Wait
 - A. As you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life
 - B. Build yourselves up in the most holy faith
 - C. Pray in the Spirit
 - D. Keep yourselves in God's love