

Just Waiting Around?

For What!?

For Whom Are You Waiting?

- For generations, Israel awaited the Messiah from God
 - Luke 2:25, 38 - “And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him... 38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”

For Whom Are You Waiting?

- When Jesus was on the cross, the Jews waited to see what would happen
 - Matt. 27:49 - “The rest said, Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.”
 - Mark 15:36 - “Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink, saying, Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down.”

For Whom Are You Waiting?

- We await our Savior from Heaven
 - 1Cor. 1:7 - “Eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ”
 - Phil. 3:20-21 - “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...”
 - Gal. 5:5 - “For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.”

For Whom Are You Waiting?

- For what else are Christians waiting?
 - Some are waiting for others to do the work of bringing souls to the Lord
 - Others are waiting for people to step up and teach Bible classes
 - Some are hoping someone will step up to be appointed to become elders and deacons
 - A few are waiting for the preacher or elders to tell them what they are supposed to do with their lives
 - Far too many qualified disciples look around for those they consider "more mature" Christians to do the work and take the leadership
- Perhaps they should see themselves as the ones for whom they have been waiting

Stepping Forward In Christ

- Each Christian, despite his or her spiritual age, is to work in the Kingdom
 - We have all put on Christ
 - Gal. 3:27-28 - “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Stepping Forward In Christ

- Each Christian, despite his or her spiritual age, is to work in the Kingdom
 - We are all expected to grow in Christ
 - Heb. 5:12 - 6:1 - “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God”

Stepping Forward In Christ

- While you will gain some understanding from hearing the Word and by observing the examples of others, you will not get complete understanding until you practice it long term
 - 1Cor. 11:1 - “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ”
 - 1John 2:6 - “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

Stepping Forward In Christ

- In the end, we are the ones for whom we have been waiting.
 - Heb. 11:39-40 - “And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.”
 - Heb. 12:1-2 - “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Stepping Forward In Christ

- 2Cor. 3:2 - “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men”

Stepping Forward In Christ

- So how will you personally respond when you are aware that disciples have drifted away or there are sinners needing taught in your local congregation?
 - Do you wait and see what will happen?
 - Or go out and encourage the struggling and erring?

Stepping Forward In Christ

- Heb. 10:24 - “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works”
- Gal. 6:1-2 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ”
- James 5:19-20 - “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

Stepping Forward In Christ

- Do you find someone to teach the Gospel?
 - Matt. 28:18-20 - “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority 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 of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
 - Rom. 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

Stepping Forward In Christ

- If we are not the salt of the earth, or the light of the world, how will the erring and lost find their way to the Lord?
 - Matt. 5:13-16

Stepping Forward In Christ

- Are you aware that the solution for weakness, discouragement, sorrow, falling, anger, and fear is the same thing?
- Get busy!
 - Phil. 3:13-14 - “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Stepping Forward In Christ

- What do you say of the hero in book or film who sits back vacillating wanting someone else to step forward?
- What did the Lord say of that kind of person in the New Testament?
 - Matt. 25:14-30

Stepping Forward In Christ

- Our Master has departed, and we await His return; we are the servants entrusted with His goods and works.
- Will we wait for someone else to step up, or will we recognize that we are the ones for whom we have been waiting around to accomplish God's purposes right now?