

"The Lord is not slack concerning
His promise, as some count slackness,
but is longsuffering toward us,
not willing that any should perish
but that all should come to
repentance."

II Peter 3:9 NKJV



Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Classes / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

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Waiting for Jehovah

"Yea, none that wait for thee shall be put to shame...For thee do I wait
all the day...For I wait for thee" (Psalm 25.3, 5, 21)

What does it mean to "wait for Jehovah?" In verse 2 the psalmist says that he has trusted in Jehovah and that those who do so will not be put to shame. The promise is clear: our heavenly Father will never let His children find Him untrue. Whatever He says, you can count on. God will always remember His covenant, so never doubt Him. Trusting in God is "waiting on Jehovah."

Then, at verse 5, we find the psalmist extolling *patience* or *steadfastness* — which, of course, is the companion of faith and trust. We can cheerfully wait when we know that we are not going to wait in vain. Notice that we are obligated to wait on the Lord in service, in worship, in expectancy "all the day" — *everyday*. The faith of the Christian must be a tried faith to be worth anything at all (James 1.2-4), and if it meets the test, it will bear up under continued trial without yielding to it. Understand that you are going to be tried, and your steadfastness under that trial is a part of "waiting for God." One of the things that will help us to not grow weary in waiting for God is to remember how long and how graciously He was waited for us (1 Peter 3.20; 2 Peter 3.9).

Verse 21 shows that waiting on God involves our own integrity of life. "Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for thee." To pretend to wait for God without the practice of true holiness is hypocrisy. There are many who claim to be waiting on God whose lives belie their profession.

How does one “wait for Jehovah” in 1985 [or 2023, DS]? What are some useful ways we can put this psalm into practice in our lives? I am convinced that we wait for Jehovah when we:

1. We pray to Him. “If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins” (2 Chronicles 7.14). Prayer is an affirmation of our faith in God as well as our own humility and dependence. It is a statement that we believe God *is* and that He *hears* and that He can *help*. We are dependent upon God and we must never forget it. To fail in constant prayer is to fail to “wait for Jehovah.” (See also Luke 8.1, 8; 1 Thessalonians 5.17; Philippians 4.6.)

2. We bear up under trails and persecutions. Paul says that “we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for our adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For in hope were we saved...if we hope for that which we see not, then do we with patience [steadfastness] wait for it” (Romans 8.23-25). James says, “Be patient therefore, brethren...the husbandmen waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth...we call them blessed that endured” (James 5.7-11). We must not quit serving the Lord, no matter how difficult it may be. Trails will come and we may be persecuted, belittled and demeaned for being true to the Savior. But “waiting for Jehovah” compels us to endure.

3. We live expectantly of the Lord’s coming. Jesus told of the foolish virgins (Matthew 25.1-13) who were not prepared for the coming of the bridegroom. They grew careless; they slept; they took no oil for their lamps. We can become so busy in the activities of life that we do not attend to the things of God. To do this is to fail to “wait for Jehovah.” Paul says that it must be our business “to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead even Jesus, who delivereth us from the wrath to come” (1 Thessalonians 1.10).

So here are some needed qualities in life of the Christian — prayer, steadfastness, expectancy. All of these things give us the proper balance to life as it really is — not as it seems to be. Make no mistake — the world will try to crowd these important activities out of our daily experience. Those who “wait for Jehovah” will not let it.

Written by; Brent Lewis

Article taken from; Christianity Magazine, January 1985 (25)

We Can’t Hide From God

One of the more sobering verses is found in Hebrews 4.13, “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account” (NKJV). The English Standard uses the phrase “naked and exposed.” This verse serves as a reminder that God sees all, and nothing can be hidden from Him. He sees our actions, hears our thoughts and the words we speak in secret, and knows the intents of our heart. God sees both the good and the bad. The Hebrews writer paints the picture of us standing before with no clothes on, our bodies fully exposed. Sometimes we may use clothes and other items to cover up our physical insecurities. But there is no covering up our spiritual insecurities, God see right through them.

Remember Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Before partaking of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil the text says, “And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed” (Genesis 2.25). Adam and Eve had nothing to hide, they were not ashamed of their nakedness. But after partaking of the forbidden fruit it says, “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden” (Genesis 3.7-8). After partaking of the fruit, they became aware of their nakedness, and in their shame made coverings for themselves, and tried to hide themselves from God. God knew what Adam and Eve had done, and they were punished and removed from the garden.

We will one day give an account for what we have done while here on earth. No one will be able to lie to God, because he knows what we have done. May we live each day with Hebrews 4.13 in the forefront of our minds, thinking each day about our actions, knowing that God sees and hears everything.

Written by; Derek Steen