

Waiting For His Return

1 Thessalonians 1:10a

*you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, **10** and to wait for His Son from heaven...*

Two Common Misconceptions on Waiting for God's Son:

1.) The Fight Method of Waiting- Jesus is waiting for us to establish an earthly kingdom, before He returns.

Christendom- A period of history when the pope and a divinely-appointed king jointly ruled over a specific region.

I will now discover unto them a Country whose endowments are by learned men allowed to stand in a parallel with the Israelites Canaan - Thomas Morton

America would be the new Jerusalem.- William Tress

New England was to be a city on a hill that all the nations would look to and see the glory of God displayed before them.- John Winthrop

Much more may we, the children of such fathers, lament our gradual degeneracy from the life and power of such fathers that was in them, and the many provoking evils that are amongst us. For these evils have moved our God severely to witness against us. – Cotton Mather

2.) The Flight Method of Waiting- We are Waiting for Jesus to Establish an Earthly Kingdom, when He returns.

I look upon this world as a wrecked vessel, God has given me a lifeboat and said to me, Moody save all you can. –D.L. Moody

The Biblical Conception of Waiting for God's Son:

3.) The Fruitful Friction Method of Waiting- We are Waiting in the Already and Waiting for the Not Yet.

A.) Christ Kingdom Has Already Been Inaugurated

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand... (Mark 1:15)

*Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, The kingdom of God does not come with observation; **21** nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you. (Luke 17:20-21)*

*...seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. **22** And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, (Ephesians 1:20-22)*

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth... (Matthew 20:18)

disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them... (Colossians 2:15).

B.) Christ's Kingdom Has Not Yet Been Consummated

devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8).

It is a period in which the kingdom has been inaugurated by Christ's earthly ministry, empowered by the Spirit, advanced through witness to the gospel, consistently opposed by the world even to the point of great tribulation for the saints. –Michael Horton

Application:

Two Dangers Attached to the Two Misconceptions:

- 1.) There is a Danger in Believing We Can Transform the Kingdom of this World into the Kingdom of Christ.
- 2.) There is a Danger of Thinking We Can Hide From the World Because Christ Will Come Any Day.

The Biblical Way to Wait For God's Son:

- 3.) We Live As Citizens of Two Kingdoms

***5** Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. **6** Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished. **7** And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace. (Jeremiah 29:5-7)*

it makes no difference what your condition among men be or under what nations laws you live since the Kingdom of Christ does not, at all, consist of these things. –John Calvin