

Hastening the Coming of Jesus

#0650

Study by W.D. Frazee—July 17, 1959

I wish Jesus would come tonight. I look about on the storm without the breaks or a weary world. I think as I watch the winds that blow it is time for the Master to come, I know. I wish He would come tonight, for the road is long. It has lost its song and its last dim lights burn low. But I think of the Master's promise to come, and I know that the waiting is almost done. I wish He would come tonight.

It is the folks that are looking for Jesus that are going to be happy when He does appear.

“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation” Hebrews 9:28.

“Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen” Revelation 1:7.

Every eye shall see Him, but most will look with terror. There are some who will look with joy. They will be able to say, This is the Lord. We have waited for Him. We will be glad and rejoice for His salvation. I like the way Paul puts it:

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing” 2 Timothy 4:8.

There is not only a welcome awaiting us. There is a crown there. There is one laid up for you if you love His appearing.

Banished to Patmos the aged John, the beloved, was given visions of glory. He was shown that wonderful reward awaiting the people of God. He saw the coming of Jesus. He saw the city coming down. Then Jesus had John write down:

“He which testifies these things saith, Surely I come quickly” Revelation 22:20.

John's response was immediate and heartfelt. He said:

“Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

The more we love Him the more we want to see Him. I wonder what is keeping Him? Is there anybody here who has expected Him before this? Well, when the bride is ready the Bridegroom will come, and will not tarry.

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints” Revelation 19:7-8.

I am wondering if anybody is looking on the bargain counter to find a dress to appear in at the wedding. It would be too bad to get something that was shop worn, soiled by the handling of many hands. I don't believe it would pass inspection. And if we have any love for Jesus we will want to give Him the very best, and be clothed in the very best when He comes.

That's why He is waiting. He is waiting until the bride is ready. “He wife hath made herself ready.” John wrote that down hundreds of years ago. He wrote it prophetically. He wrote it down as he saw it in vision, but it is not true yet. It is not fulfilled yet. It is still ahead of us.

“And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” You can see that we are not left to interpret the symbolism. That is done for us by inspiration. We are told exactly what the wedding garment is. It is the righteousness of saints.

There are those who seem to think that you and I are going to ride into heaven covered by the righteousness of Jesus, with nothing in our lives whatsoever. That is one of those half-truths which can be dangerous. As far as merit is concerned, our salvation is entirely the work of Jesus Christ in the life that He lived here on this earth, and the death He died upon the cross for us without any work or merit of ours adding to it or pertaining to it whatsoever. That is the way we are justified. That is the way our sins are covered—by that precious life which He lived for us and gave for us. He imputed to our account His righteousness, which is perfectly adequate to make up for all our deficiencies.

But until that life which is imputed to us is lived out in us, we are not ready for His coming. Until that righteousness which is put to our account when we accept Jesus is demonstrated in our daily actions and words and thoughts, the bride is not ready, for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. Oh, yes. Right here in this world God is going to have some people in whom the life of Jesus is demonstrated.

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”
Revelation 14:12.

Satan says, It can't be done, never has been done, and never will be done. There is no use to expect it.

But the Word of God is clear, friends. It will be done. I am so glad that when the Savior comes He won't find his church clothed in rags.

The Bible says our righteousness is as filthy rags. But there comes a change, a transformation:

“And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And He answered and spoke unto those that stood before Him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him He said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

“Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at”
Zechariah 3:1-6-8.

The whole universe is going to wonder when in this last generation the people of God are brought forth as saints without spot or blemish or any such thing. I repeat, the bride will be ready when the Bridegroom appears.

Let me state it the other way around. The Bridegroom will appear when the bride is ready. That's the thing we need to emphasize. That's the key to this whole delay, the long tarrying time.

“It was not the will of God that Israel should wander forty years in the wilderness; He desired to lead them directly to the land of Canaan and establish them there, a holy and happy people. But `they could not enter in because of unbelief.' Hebrews 3:19. Because of their backsliding and apostasy they perished in the desert, and others were raised up to enter the Promised Land. In like manner, it was not the will of God that the coming of Christ should be so long delayed and His people should remain so many years in this world of sin and sorrow. But unbelief separated them from God” *Great Controversy*, page 458.

God is not to blame for this long delay. No, He isn't. For nearly three times forty years we have been wandering in that wilderness which lies between the Egypt we have left and the Canaan we wish to come to. When will we cross Jordan? When will we leave these wilderness wanderings and enter into the Promised Land?

When the righteousness of Jesus is lived out in the lives of His children; when heaven can say without perjury, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Then He will come, and come soon.

I am so glad we can help solve this problem, aren't you?

"Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God" 2 Peter 3:12.

We are not only to look for, pray for, plead for the coming of Jesus. We are to hasten His coming. How? By entering into the life of Jesus; by accepting His righteousness, not merely to cover the sins of the past, but to keep us from sinning today; to keep us from yielding today to the temptations that got us down yesterday. Thus we help to hasten the coming of Jesus. And with that we are to reach out our hands to draw others into the circle of His loving presence. We are to lift up our voices and tell others the good news that He is coming, and how they too can be ready to meet Him.

In that double work of gaining victory in our own lives, and winning others to His message, we are hastening the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am glad that we can do that.

On the matter of getting the victory over sin, and reaching the place where temptation looses its power to subject us, there is only one answer. It is the answer of the cross. It is the answer of the sacrifice of Jesus in Gethsemane and Calvary as He gives His life for us. It is only as we know the cost of sinning that we shall quit sinning. And the remnant men wonder about will be more conscious of the suffering that sin has caused Christ than any other group of people have ever been. The reason they will be more conscious of it is because they look to it more earnestly.

We see what we look at. We don't see what we don't look at. If you and I would like to join in getting ready and helping others to get ready, then we will turn our attention to Calvary and Gethsemane. There we shall gather to our hearts those evidences of God's love and sin's hateful character that will spoil sin for us.

I want to share some verses. It is a prayer that just came to my attention from one of the writers of hymns long ago. It has impressed my heart:

Ever when tempted, make me see,
 Beneath the olives moon pierced shade;
My God alone, outstretched and bruised,
 And bleeding on the earth He made.

And make me feel it was my sin,
 As though no other sin there were;
That was to Him that carries worlds,
 A load that He could scarcely bear.

The load finally broke His heart. Here is the One who carries worlds, upholding all things (Hebrews 1:3). Yet there was something that broke the heart of the One who carries the universe. What was it? Oh, make me feel that it was my sins as though no other sin there were.

Is sin that terrible? Is sin that heavy? Yes, it is. And the next time you are tempted to bargain with God to see if He will not let you in at a cut-rate price, if it were possible for God to be compromising as to let you in with one tiny sin, as you view it, one tiny indulgence, one tiny bit of selfishness, that would ferment in your life until it would spoil all heaven and all eternity for you. It is no arbitrary decree of God that shuts out selfishness from heaven. Heaven would be a place of torture to any who should by mistake land there with unclean garments, unclean souls. One bit of selfishness would so ferment as to spoil all heaven and all eternity for us. Oh, let us thank God that it is in this life we can be cleaned inside and out; that selfishness can be spoiled for us. And instead of looking upon it as desirable and attractive, we shall see it as it really is—repulsive and abhorrent.

It is looking to Gethsemane and Calvary that makes this change in us. We cannot change ourselves. We are naturally selfish and naturally love to be selfish. But looking at the sacrifice of Jesus reveals to us One who loves us better than we love ourselves. And looking at what sin did to Him makes sin appear in its true character as wholly undesirable.

We cannot see the soldiers lay the scourge upon the back of Jesus. We cannot see those Roman soldiers take the spikes and drive them into the hands of the Savior. Make me feel it was my sin as though no other sin there were.

I know this is so real and so true and so effective that the enemy will do everything he can to keep us from looking at Calvary. He will seek to divert our minds with thoughts of this, that, and the other thing. But if we will look, our hearts will be changed. If we will behold what He did for us, the magnetic pull of sin will be broken, and we shall be attracted to Jesus with a drawing power greater than anything in this world.

Precious Lord, we thank Thee that Thou art coming, and coming soon. We join in the prayer of Thy church, Even so come Lord Jesus. We wish it could be tonight. But we are so glad that Thou art waiting until Thy people are ready. Teach us to let Thee get us ready. We would turn from looking at those around us, and behold Thee. We would turn from admiring our figures in the mirror, and behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world. We would turn from the study of self to gaze upon the crucified Son of God. As we look, Lord, work the miracle. As we behold, change us. Spoil sin for us, and reveal Thy love to us. We ask it in Jesus' name, Amen.

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