

Hastening the Coming of Jesus

#0650

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—July 17, 1959

“There is One loved me so that for me He died,
He’s my dear, precious Savior so true;
On the cross for my sins He was crucified:
I want to see Jesus, don’t you?

[Refrain] I want to see Jesus, don’t you?
My Savior so faithful and true;
When I reach the strand of that love-bright land,
O I want to see Jesus, don’t you?

When I’m weary and faint He is always near,
With His joy He my strength doth renew;
And He comforts my heart, speaking words of cheer:
I want to see Jesus, don’t you? [Refrain]

There’s a place for my soul that He doth prepare,
And its beauty by faith I can view;
First of all, when I enter that mansion fair,
I want to see Jesus, don’t you? [Refrain]”
“There Is One Loved Me So That For Me He Died” by Ada Blenkhorn
Verses 1, 2 and 5.

I wish He would come tonight, don’t you?

“I look about on the storm without
That breaks o’er a weary world;
And I think as I watch the winds that blow,
‘tis 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.”
[Author unknown.]

You know, it’s the folks that are looking for Him that are going to be happy
when He does appear, isn’t it?

Hebrews 9:28:

“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.

Oh, all will see Him, Revelation 1:7:

“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...” Revelation 1:7.

Yes, every eye shall see Him, but most, oh, will look with terror. But there are some that will look with joy. They’ll be able to say:

“...This is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation” Isaiah 25:9.

I like the way Paul puts it in 2 Timothy the fourth chapter and the eighth verse:

“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.

Yes, there’s not only a welcome awaiting us, there’s a crown prepared. There’s one laid up for you if you love His appearing.

Banished to rocky Patmos, the aged John, the beloved, was given visions of glory. And last of all, he was shown that wonderful reward awaiting the people of God. He saw the coming of Jesus. Finally, he saw the city coming down. You’ve read it here in these closing chapters of the book. And then, the last thing that Jesus had him write down was this:

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

And John’s response was immediate and heartfelt:

“...Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus” Revelation 22:20.

The more we love Him, the more we want to see Him. I wonder what’s keeping Him? Is there anybody here that expected Him before this? I wonder what’s keeping Him. Well, I’ll tell you this, my friends. When the bride is ready, the Bridegroom will come and will not tarry [a paraphrase of Hebrews 10:37].

Turn to Revelation the 19th chapter, 7th and 8th verses:

“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’m just wondering if there’s anybody looking on the bargain counter to find a dress to appear in at the wedding. It’d be too bad, wouldn’t it, friends? It would be too bad to get something that was shopworn, soiled by the handling of many hands. I don’t believe it would pass inspection. And certainly, if we had any love for Jesus, we would want to give Him the very best and be clothed in the very best when He comes. Am I right? Oh, yes.

Well, that’s why He is waiting, friends. He’s waiting till the bride is ready. For this says:

“...The marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready” Revelation 19:7.

John wrote that down hundreds of years ago. He wrote it down prophetically. He wrote it down as he heard it and saw it in vision, but it’s not true yet, friends. It’s not fulfilled yet. It’s still ahead of us.

“...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.

You see, we’re not left here to interpret the symbolism. That’s done for us by inspiration. We’re told here exactly what the wedding garment is. It’s the righteousness of saints.

You know, there are those that seem to think that you and I are going to ride into heaven simply covered by the righteousness of Jesus, with nothing in *our* lives, on *our* part whatsoever. That’s one of those half-truths which can be dangerous.

As far as merit is concerned, friends, our salvation is entirely the work of Jesus Christ in the life that He lived here on this earth and the death He died for us upon the cross, without any work or merit of ours adding to it or pertaining to it whatsoever. That’s the way we’re justified. That’s the way our sins are covered—by that precious life which He lived for us and gave for us—imputed to our account, His righteousness is perfectly adequate to make up for all our deficiencies.

But I want to tell you something, friends. Until that life which is imputed to us is lived out *in* us, we’re 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, the bride is not ready.

“...For the fine linen is the righteousness of saints”
Revelation 19:8.

Oh, yes. Right here in this world, God is going to have some people in whom the life of Jesus is demonstrated.

Those are the ones that the 14th of Revelation and the 12th verse talks about:

“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, and never will be done, never has been done; no use to expect it.

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

You know, the Bible says our righteousnesses are as filthy rags [a paraphrase of Isaiah 64:6]. But oh, there comes a change, there comes a transformation.

Read about it over here in Zechariah the third chapter. I like it.

“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...”
Zechariah 3:1–4.

This is Jesus speaking.

“...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” Zechariah 3:4–5.

Oh, I think that's wonderful, don't you, friends? It is wonderful. Notice the eighth verse:

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

Let me tell you, the whole universe is going to wonder when in this last generation, the people of God are brought forth as saints, as holy ones without spot or blemish or any such thing [a paraphrase of Ephesians 5:27]. I repeat, the bride will be ready when the Bridegroom appears.

Let me state it the other way. 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, this long tarrying time.

I want to read you something from *Great Controversy*, page 458:

"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' *Great Controversy*, page 458.

They took 40 years to do what they could have done in two years.

"Because of their backsliding and apostasy they perished in the desert, and others were raised up to enter the Promised Land" *Ibid.*

Now, listen:

"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" *Ibid.*

Oh, friends, God is not to blame for this long delay. No, He isn't. For nearly three times 40 years, we've been wandering in that wilderness which lies between the Egypt that we have left and the Canaan to which we wish to come.

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" Revelation 14:12.

Then He'll come, friends, and come soon. I'm so glad we can help solve this problem, aren't you?

2 Peter the 3rd chapter, the 12th verse, noting the margin:

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

We're not only to look for, but also yearn for, long for, plead for, pray for the coming of Jesus. We are actually to hasten His coming. How? Oh, by entering into

the living of 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 temptation that got us down yesterday. Thus, we help to hasten the coming of Jesus.

And then, *with* that, we're to reach out our hands to draw others into the circle of His loving presence. We're to lift up our voices and tell others the good news that He's 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, hastening the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I repeat, I'm glad that we can hasten it. Aren't you?

You know, on this matter of getting the victory over sin, on this matter of reaching the place where temptation loses its power to subject us, power to conquer us, on this matter friends, there is only one answer. It's the answer of the cross. It's the answer of the sacrifice of Jesus in Gethsemane and Calvary as He gives His life for us. It's only as we know the cost of sinning that we shall quit sinning.

And the remnant, these "men wondered at" that I've just read about here in Zechariah 3, 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 will be because they look to it more earnestly.

You know, we see what we look at. We don't see what we don't look at, and if you and I would like to join in earnest in getting ready and helping others to get ready then we will turn our attention to Calvary and Gethsemane. And there we shall gather to our hearts those evidences of God's love and sin's hateful character, such evidence as will spoil sin for us.

I want to share with you some verses, a prayer that just came to my attention from one of the hymn writers of long ago. It's impressed my heart. I think it will yours:

"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 Who carries worlds,
A load that He could scarcely bear."
[Author unknown].

In fact, the load finally broke His heart, didn't it, friends? Here is the One, think of it, that carries worlds, upholding all things (Hebrews 1:3). And yet, friends, there was something that broke the heart of that One that carries the universe. What was it?

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

Is sin that terrible? Is sin that heavy? Yes, it is, friends. And do you know something? I want you to stop and think of it next time you're tempted to bargain with God to see if God won't let you in at cut-rate prices. Do you know, if it were possible for God to be so compromising as to let you in with one tiny sin, as you view it, one tiny indulgence, one tiny bit of selfishness, do you know that would ferment in your life until it would spoil all heaven and all eternity for you? That's right, that's right.

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 uncleansed garments, unclean souls. One bit of selfishness, I repeat, would so ferment as to spoil all heaven and all eternity for us.

Oh, let us thank God that it is in *this* life that we can be cleansed 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.

And I repeat that it is looking to Gethsemane and Calvary that makes this change in us. We cannot change ourselves. We're 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 and want to go up there and take another scourge and lay some more lashes upon His back, can we? We cannot see those Roman soldiers take the spikes and drive them into this hand of the Savior and want to grab a hammer and nails and start on the other hand, can we?

“And make me feel it was my sin,
As though no other sin there were...”
Ibid.

I know this, friends. This is so real and so true and so effective that the enemy will do everything he can to keep us from looking right here in this direction, looking at Calvary. He will seek to divert our minds, distract them with thoughts of this, that, and the other thing. But oh, if we will look, our hearts will be changed. If we 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.

May we bow our heads?

Precious Lord, we thank Thee tonight that Thou art coming and coming soon. And we join in the prayer of Thy church:

“...Even so, come, Lord Jesus” Revelation 22:20.

We wish it could be tonight. But oh, we’re so glad that Thou art waiting till Thy people are ready. Just now, 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 taketh away the sin of the world” John 1:29.

We would turn from the study of self to gazing upon the crucified Son of God. And 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.

Is there anybody here tonight that says, “This is for me; God has spoken to my heart tonight, and I see that there’s something that needs to be done for *me* to break the hold of sin and to get me ready for the coming of Jesus”?

Is there somebody that says, “Yes, this is for *me*, and I want you to pray for *me*, that Jesus will work this change in *my* life and get me ready”?

If there’s somebody like that, raise your hand, and we’ll pray for you.

Well friends, thank God that so many sense the need, and I want to tell you this. If our hearts are responding to Him, no greater evidence could be found that He’s around here to help us, for we never of ourselves turn to God.

Jesus says:

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...” John 6:44.

And so, every response that we feel in our hearts is the evidence of His wooing Spirit, His drawing love. And that gives us confidence to know that He’s going to accomplish the thing that we long to see done, for He would never impart the longing unless He intended to satisfy that longing.

Aren’t you glad, friends?

“...Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out”
John 6:37.

Now, there may be somebody here tonight that would especially like to seek God at the altar. Oh, I know that right where you are, as you respond to the appeal of the Spirit of God, He has a blessing for you.

There may be somebody here tonight that would like to seek God up here at this altar. If there's one, friends, I'd like to give the opportunity. I know that God is ready to meet you here and do a work in your heart that you long to have done.

I would not press any with mere human urging, no. I simply invite that the Spirit of God shall appeal to your heart.

As sister quoted in the testimony meeting:

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:13.

I say this to you, friends, if you have Him—I don't mean if you're perfect, but if you know that your hand is in His, thank Him for it and pray where you are that that walk may be closer, that communion sweeter, that work of grace deeper.

But oh, if there's somebody here tonight that needs to *get* your hand in His, come, seek God for yourself and let us seek God for you. If there's somebody here tonight that needs to get hold of Jesus, needs to have Jesus get hold of you, oh friend, come; come and get the help.

Oh, He says:

"...Him that cometh to Me I will..." John 6:37.

What?

"...I will in no wise cast out" John 6:37.

"...He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come..." Hebrews 7:25.

"...that come..." Hebrews 7:25.

"...that come..." Hebrews 7:25.

Brother, I wish we could sing, "Come Every Soul by Sin Oppressed." What is that number? Five six seven [old *Church Hymnal* (1941)].

"Come every soul by sin oppressed,
There's mercy with the Lord,
And He will surely give you rest,
By trusting in His Word."
Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal (1985), #279.

Let's stand, and as we sing, let those that Christ has spoken to come, and kneeling at God's altar, find the blessing that God has promised for you here tonight.

"Come, every soul by sin oppressed,
There's mercy with the Lord,

And He will surely give you rest,
By trusting in His Word.

[Refrain] Only trust Him, only trust Him,
Only trust Him now;
He will save you, He will save you,
He will save you now.

For Jesus shed His precious blood
Rich blessings to bestow;
Plunge now into the crimson flood
That washes white as snow.
[Refrain].

Yes, Jesus is the truth, the way,
That leads you into rest;
Believe in Him without delay,
And you are fully blest.
[Refrain].

Come, then, and join this holy band,
And on to glory go,
To dwell in that celestial land,
Where joys immortal flow.
[Refrain].

Ah, is there another one that needs to take that hand that perhaps was once held firmly in Jesus' hand, but somehow something caused you to slip that hand out of Jesus' hand, and you've been walking afar off. Something came in between you and Jesus.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to get that out of the way tonight, friends? Wouldn't that be wonderful?

Just seek the Lord right there, brethren. God has a blessing.

I say, wouldn't it be wonderful, friend, to get that thing that has stood between you and the Master out of the way tonight. I can't take it out. You can't take it out. But Jesus can, Jesus can, Jesus can.

"...Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out"
John 6:37.

But ah, if there's one hesitating one here tonight that might please Jesus.

If you who have given everything to Jesus, you know it, you can thank God for it. Nothing to boast of, of yourself, but oh, it's something to thank God for with all your soul.

But ah, you that are having a struggle in your heart, you that are having a burden on your soul, you that have let some idol come between you and the Master, why not, oh why not seek God with all the heart that that idol may be surrendered, that load be lifted, that bondage given up.

“...Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out”

John 6:37.

Might there be one more before we close that will just break and come and say, “Yes, God’s been calling me, and right now I’m going to come. Right now, I’m going to break with sin. Right now, I’m going to have done with this compromising selfishness”?

Oh friend, come right now. Make Jesus happy. Look away from yourself to Jesus dying for you upon the cross. And as you do that, oh the spell of sin will be broken. Looking at yourself will never bring it; looking to Him will.

Yes, my son. God will do it. Oh, God loves you.

Children, you older ones, God loves you. He’s waiting to do just what we read there in Zechariah, take away those filthy garments and clothe you with a change of raiment. He’s waiting to take away the sin and give you salvation. Yes, He’s waiting to do it.

Ah, let no one think, “I’ve tried before and I’ve failed. No use to try again.”

No, no. Let me tell you something, friends. There will be people in heaven that have tried and failed and tried and failed a thousand times. But the thousandth time they got up and came to Jesus and let Him put them on the way to salvation, and they’re there, thank God, in glory.

And oh, I’m sorry to say there will be people in hell that didn’t fail nearly so many times as some of those in heaven, but what was the matter? When they were down, they stayed down. When they went away from Jesus, they never came back, like that rich young man.

Oh, no, it isn’t the number of times you’ve failed. I tell you, friends, if I were you I’d make up my mind that if you fail a million times, I’d get up again and go to Jesus. I would, I would. I wouldn’t let the record of my past failures keep me. They’re not keeping Him from you. They don’t need to keep you from Him. He loves you. He loves you.

That prodigal son down there in the hog pen, he came just as he was.

That’s right, Catherine, bless your heart. God’s got a blessing for you. Press right in there with the other girls and seek God.

Oh, thank God, friends, no matter if we’re way out in the far country there with the swine, we can turn our hearts homeward, our faces toward the Father. And He’ll

see us a great way off and come running to meet us and throw His arms around us in love and compassion and forgiveness. Won't He?

You want a blessing, too, don't you? Bless your heart, just kneel right down here and tell Jesus about it, and He'll give it to you. I know He will.

Oh, friends, I don't want to see anybody miss this, do you? And you who know the Lord, just make mighty intercession where you stand that Heaven will have its way with every heart here tonight—everyone, everyone.

You know, each one is as precious to Jesus as though that one were the only one in all the world. If there'd just been one person that would come to Jesus tonight, it would be worth this whole meeting and a million more like it, wouldn't it, friends? Yes, yes.

And you know, if everybody in this upper room were saved tonight but one, God would want us to bankrupt the world if necessary to save that one, wouldn't He? Wouldn't He? Yes. That's how much you're worth to God, friends.

So, if there's one that's still hesitating, one at whose door the Savior is knocking, knocking, knocking, knocking, oh, why not open the door?

Why not say, "Yes, I must let Jesus in. I can't bear to keep Him waiting any longer. I can't bear to delay His coming anymore. I must not be a party to this long delay. Oh, I must not only look for but hasten the coming of my Lord. Oh yes, I must surrender all, I must surrender all."

Yes, here's some more that want the blessing. Come, dear ones, come seek God. God will bless your souls. I know He will. Right there. Thank God.

Is there another that says, "This is my hour, God has spoken to my heart. Tonight I must go and seek the Lord. Tonight I must go and seek the Lord."

"I cannot drive the nails again,
I cannot thrust the spear of pain..."
Christ in Song, #23, first stanza (partial).

"I cannot crucify my Savior any longer."

Dear Lord, oh we pray with all our hearts that just now, in this closing moment, there will be another soul born into Thy kingdom. We pray there will be another surrender that will make the arches of heaven ring with songs of triumphant joy, another yielding of the heart to Thee. It shall make Jesus glad and drive the devils away.

Just now come preciously near to any hesitating one. Assure each heart that they *can* be redeemed, that there is help in Jesus, that Christ died for them and that right now He's here waiting to bless them, to help them, to save them. Oh, Lord, work the miracle and work it now we pray. Send special angels. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

Is there one more now that says, “Yes, I must yield, I must come”?

Is there another that says, “God is calling me”?

Oh, I thank God for every one of these seeking hearts, don’t you? Wonderful love, wonderful love.

“All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live;
I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.”

Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal, #309, first stanza.

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