

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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THEY WHO WAIT UPON THE LORD

Larry R. Ping II

The phrase "wait on the Lord," or a form of it, appears seven times in Scripture (Psa. 27:14; Psa. 37:34; Prov. 20:22; Psa. 37:9; Psa. 123:2; Isa. 8:17; Isa. 40:31). It carries with it the idea of "patience" and "endurance." It denotes our willingness to forego our wishes and desires in certain circumstances, and look to God for the ultimate answers. The interest of this article is to investigate what those who "wait on the Lord" do. Those who wait on the Lord...

1) Possess Courage.

The Psalmist penned, "*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD*" (Psa. 27:14). It often takes a measure of boldness to patiently wait for God's chosen path. Too often we produce bad decisions in the name of haste and fear. The wise man warned, "*He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly*" (Prov. 14:29). Be brave and be

bold while waiting on the Lord!

2) Keep God's Way.

David authored, "*Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it*" (Psa. 37:34). The key word here is "his." My way and your way will not cut it! Recall the familiar warning, "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*" (Prov. 14:12). Frequently, our lack of patience will lead to an effort to establish our own ways of doing right, rather than seeking God's way (Rom. 10:3). Be willing to humbly submit to God's way while waiting on the Lord!

3) Defer Vengeance.

Solomon said, "*Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee*" (Prov. 20:22). God has made it abundantly clear we are to allow Him to exact revenge on our behalf. Paul simply wrote, "*Dearly beloved, avenge not*

yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Rom. 12:19). At times, we all deal with the urge to mete out punishment to those who have mistreated us in some way. Be willing to concede that to God while waiting on the Lord!

4) Are Not Ashamed.

"*Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed*" was the plea of the Psalm writer (Psa. 25:3). If we are not careful, it is easy to slip into a world of shame. Just ask Peter if you doubt such is true (Matt. 26:69-75). The Lord Himself distinctly said, "*Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels*" (Mk. 8:38). There will many who sneer, scorn and scoff at what you teach and how you live. Nonetheless, be not ashamed while waiting on the Lord!

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5) Live Uprightly.

David enunciated, “*Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee*” (Psa. 25:21). Notice integrity and uprightness are preservation tools. They create a better quality of life. Though this is true, some are lulled into a false sense of security, noting the Lord has neither returned nor immediately punished wrongdoing, and plunge into sin. Adopt the attitude of Job who said, “*till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me*” (Job. 27:5). It is never the right time or circumstance to set aside our morals and ethics. Live an honest and respectable life while waiting on the Lord!

6) Recognize God As The True Source Of Help.

Psa. 33:20 declares, “*Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.*” This, ultimately, is why we wait on the Lord. He is undefeated. He does not, nor will He ever lose. Paul realized this when asking, “*If God be for us, who can be against us*” (Rom. 8:31)? Even seasoned Christians, at

times, begin to doubt and rely on their own senses and feel overcome by the world and its rottenness. Call to mind John’s admonition, “*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world*” (I Jn. 4:4). Let God fight and win your battles while waiting on the Lord!

7) Sees The Value In Hope.

The Psalmist reminded, “*My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him*” (Psa. 62:5). Hope is “*...an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast*” (Heb. 6:19). The apostle iterated, “*For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it*” (Rom. 8:24-25). The expectation of great and wonderful things ahead should be enough to keep us patient. Even in very bleak times, the weeping prophet said, “*It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD*” (Lam.

3:26). Stay firmly attached to hope while waiting on the Lord!

8) Will Reap Great Rewards.

The Messianic prophet beautifully said, “*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint*” (Isa. 40:31). These words are allusions to a Heavenly home, a place in which there shall “*be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away*” (Rev. 21:4). Do you desire these rewards? Wait on the Lord, and they can be yours!

Patience and endurance are absolutely necessary to gain a home in the Heavenly realms. Jesus said, “*In your patience possess ye your souls*” (Lk. 21:19). James penned, “*Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh*” (Jam. 5:8). Wait on the Lord!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm