

WHY DO YOU WAIT?

"And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee." Psalm 39:7.

David is asking a very practical question. It is also a very personal question. It is not, what is my city waiting for, nor what is my neighbor waiting for, nor what is my companion waiting for, nor what are my children waiting for; but what am I waiting for?

The question of our relation to God is always a personal matter. No one can repent for us, or believe for us, or be baptized for us, or join the church for us, or die for us, or appear at the judgment for us. What a change it would make if we could get all others to think of their relation to God as a personal matter.

"As soon as I from earth shall go
What will become of me?
Eternal happiness or woe
Must then my portion be."

All of us are facing the God of all the earth Who is calling us to repentance and faith. The question is, What are we waiting for? Why do you wait?

I. "I am waiting for time to consider this momentous question."

If there is anything that ought to demand the most painstaking care and the most earnest thought and meditation, it is this great step. This is such an important question that I am waiting for time to consider it. Consider what? Do you want time to consider whether it is better to do right than to do wrong? Do you want time to consider whether it is better to be saved or to be lost? How much time do you want to decide that it is better to go to heaven than it is to go to hell? And yet you say, "I want time to consider whether I will go to heaven or not." Is that wise? Is that even sensible?

When we consider the infinite goodness of God and His numberless calls to men to accept Christ as Saviour and live a genuine Christian life, and then look at what a terrible cheat the devil is, it seems that the most ridiculous position a man could take in life is to wait for time to consider his relation to God. It is already later than you think. You had better not wait for more time.

II. "I am waiting for better terms."

You may be waiting until you can do as you please and be a Christian. Now, if you want an easy religion there may be some churches that will accommodate you, that is, they will accommodate you as far as they run their trains. There are some short branch roads trying to advertise themselves as great trunk lines to glory, but there is only one grand trunk line to glory. When you step aboard the gospel train to glory you must have a through ticket and your baggage checked clear through to the promised land.

The terms of Christianity are the best that God will ever make. They are, repent of your sins toward God and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. "I am waiting because I would have to give up too much."

The only things God asks you to give up are the things that are doing you harm. In Psalm 84:11 we read, "The Lord God is a Sun and Shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." God never asks us to give up anything that is for our good. He asks us to give up what we are better off without.

What you give up when you accept Christ is nothing compared with what you get. It should be easy to give up pennies to get dollars; to give up glass to get diamonds; to give up sin to get salvation, and to give up Satan to get the Saviour. What you give up for Christ is nothing to compare with what Christ gave up for you. He left heaven and its glories and came down to earth and its shame, to be despised and rejected of men, to wear a crown of thorns, and to bear the nails in His hands and feet for you and me. How unreasonable and ungrateful to talk about what you give up for Christ when you think of what He gave up for you!

IV. "I am waiting to enjoy the world a while longer."

You are making a great mistake. You are proceeding upon the theory that one can live for this world for a while, and then tire of it, and give it up without a struggle. That is a big mistake. The longer one lives for the world the less he enjoys it, but the tighter and tighter it becomes its grip upon his soul. Take, for example, the love of alcohol. When one first begins to drink, there is pleasure in it. Later there is less pleasure in it, and he finally hates it. He hates it because he knows it is robbing him of his brain power, physical strength, business capacity, love of wife, respect of children, and everything that makes life worth living. The same is true with the love of money. When one begins to accumulate wealth, there is pleasure in it; then anxiety, care and worry as the grip of the almighty dollar fastens on the poor shrivelling soul.

If you are waiting to accept Christ in order to enjoy the world a while longer, you are losing the far greater joy that is to be found in Him. An immensely greater joy is to be found in Him. An immensely greater joy is to be found through believing in Christ and yielding completely to Him than is to be found in all that this world has to give. Don't wait to enjoy the world a while longer, because you may be called out of it at any moment.

V. "I am waiting for my friends."

You come to Christ first and then bring your friends with you. It will be far better for you to come to Christ and bring your friends with you than to let your friends drag you down to hell with them. If they will not come to Christ with you, then you should come without them, for it is far better to go to heaven alone than to go to hell in company.

VI. "I am waiting because of so many hypocrites."

What right have you to reject Christ and trample Him under your feet, even if there are hypocrites? Why is it that you pick out the lamest, shortest, weakest and most crooked member in the church and measure yourself by that hypocrite? Why don't you select a first class member and measure yourself by a real representative of Christianity? It is because you would be like a candle in the glare of the noon-day sun. You could not stand the contrast.

Why should you bother with hypocrites? All of them are going to hell. Put all of them behind you. Nothing can be in your way unless it is in front of you. Whenever you hear anybody talking about hypocrites being in the way, it is because such a person is behind the hypocrites and that is mighty far back and very low down. If you die without Christ, you will go to the same place where all hypocrites will be spending eternity. Hell is where you will go if you do not trust Christ and get saved.

VII. "I am waiting for the right sort of feeling."

Isn't it strange how some people believe that you must have some strange kind of feeling before you become a Christian? Let me ask you: What kind of a feeling are you waiting for? Many people are waiting for the peace and joy that they have heard Christians talk

about. But this peace and joy are the results of having accepted Christ as Saviour and of having surrendered to Him as Lord and Master. As certainly as you receive Christ He will save you. The right sort of feeling is always the result of having come to Christ and accepted Him. Salvation is never the result of feeling, but always of faith in Christ. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." If you do not accept Christ, you are certain to remain lost eternally. If you will come to Christ and accept Him as your Saviour, He will forgive your sins and save your soul, and will also flood your soul with His presence and power.

VIII. "I am waiting until I find out I am going to die."

You want to enjoy the world just as long as you can, and then, when you see you are near death, you propose to give it up and accept Christ. Have you any guarantee that you will not die tonight? Not one of us can tell how soon the summons may come. At various times I have preached to people who were apparently in good health, but who were in eternity within twenty-four hours.

Have you any guarantee that, when you die, you will not die suddenly? People so often take it for granted that they are going to have a long lingering illness and plenty of time to think, to repent, to accept Christ and to attend to the affairs of eternity. But that is not the way that most people die. Have you any guarantee that you will not die suddenly and with no opportunity for repentance and faith.

Have you any guarantee that when you come to die that you will have any disposition to repent? Many think that the best place to repent is on a deathbed. The truth is, a deathbed is the poorest place in the world for repentance, faith and salvation. If you wait until your deathbed before you accept Jesus Christ, the overwhelming probability is that you will be lost forever.

What are you waiting for? Like the Psalmist, your only hope is in the Lord. There is no hope for you in any other. Then, accept Him as your personal Saviour now and He will save you.