

## Expecting or Waiting

It's early afternoon. A mother drops her children off at the neighborhood park to play while she runs a few errands. The children scamper off and head to the playground and quickly forget about Mom. The young ones are expecting her to return, but they hope that she doesn't return too soon and interrupt their fun. Later in the day, they spy a car that looks like the family sedan coming down the street; it passes. Oh good, it wasn't Mom, so they can keep playing. They are expecting her but not quite ready for her.

The afternoon becomes early evening and children continue to play. A little hunger pang reminds them dinner time is coming. However, they can wait and they try to will Mom from coming back too soon.

The number of playmates begins to dwindle as parents call the other children home. Finally, it is just them. The fun time has passed and they are tired and hungry. Where is Mom? The sun is going down, and they make their way to the small parking lot and sit on the curb. A few hours ago, they were merely expecting her to show up. Now they are waiting for her. As it grows darker every set of headlights brings a hope that it is her, and when it isn't, they are disappointed. Where is she? Doesn't she know we are waiting on her?

Dear reader, are we merely expecting Christ to return, or are we truly waiting for Him? The comforts and recreations of this present world can keep us so occupied as we move from one temporary pleasure to another. I've heard people say, "Lord, please don't come until I get married!" How many other earthly delights do we hope to experience before He comes?

Some are merely expecting Him. Yet, there are some amongst us who feel, the hour is late; our hearts are hungry; our bodies weary from this journey—and the spices of this world's pleasure have grown bland. It is these who are truly looking and waiting for His return. For the waiting soul there is no pleasure on earth that would be worth delaying His return, even for a moment.

Rom. 8:23 ...even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

2 Cor. 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

1 Thess. 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Heb. 9:28 ...and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time...

Rev. 22:20 ...Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

JT