

Wait, What?

Good Things Take Time

Pastor Carl Toti - December 9-10, 2017

2 Peter 3:8-15 (NLT) But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. 11 Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, 12 looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. 13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. 14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. 15 And remember, the Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him.

"The strongest of all warriors are these two—

Time and Patience."

—Leo Tolstoy

4 THINGS TO KNOW WHILE WE WAIT

1. GOD KEEPS HIS _____

2 Peter 3:3-4 (NKJV) knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

2. GOD EXPECTS US TO _____

2 Peter 3:14 (TLB) Dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen and for him to come, try hard to live without sinning; and be at peace with everyone so that he will be pleased with you when he returns.

**1 Peter 2:2 (NLT) Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment,
The biggest room in the world is the room for improvement. -Anon.**

You can't do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth. -Evan Esar

3. MAKE GOD'S WORD A _____

2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

With over 5 billion copies sold, the Bible remains Earth's most-read book. More than a quarter of a century ago in 1991, 45 percent of American adults told Barna they read the Bible at least once a week. In 2009, 46 percent reported doing so. These percentages were remarkably consistent over the course of nearly two decades. But since 2009, Bible reading has become less widespread, especially among the youngest adults. As more and more Millennials join the ranks of adulthood, the national average continues to weaken. Today, about one-third of all American adults report reading the Bible once a week or more. The percentage is highest among Elders (49%) and lowest among Millennials (24%).

<https://www.barna.com/research/the-bible-in-america-6-year-trends/>

The Bible is a telescope; it is not to look at, but to look through. -Anon.

The best way to know your Bible is to fall in love with its author.

4. LIVE _____

1 Peter 3:15 (CEV) Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.