

Waiting in Hope Creates Tension

Introduction and Review

- Last week we considered the kingdom of God in general eschatology.
- There was a legitimate & biblical expectation for a Messiah & His kingdom (Ps. 110:1-7; Jer. 23:5-6; Is. 11:1-9).
- Jesus taught & confirmed the present reality of the kingdom (Lk. 17:20-21; 11:20; Mt. 13:31-32).
- Jesus also taught that there is a future reality of the kingdom – consummation when He returns (Lk. 17:22-37).
- The bible & particularly the prophetic books are a blend of preterist & futurist teaching – already happened/yet to happen [TENSION].
- Some prophecies are fulfilled in this present age & other prophecies in the age to come (Gal. 1:4; Eph. 1:20-21) – TENSION.

I. Who We Are

A. Children

Every believer is already a child of God, yet the fullest reality of this blessing will not happen until Jesus returns (1Jn. 3:2) – “when he appears”. This is eschatological tension in our relationship with God

B. Sanctified

Every believer was sanctified at the time of our conversion (1Co. 6:11; 2Co. 5:17). Yet complete sanctification will not be experienced until Jesus returns (1Jn. 3:2).

Who we are in Christ will not be fully realized until Christ returns - TENSION.

II. What We Have

A. Eternal life

Every believer already has eternal life (Jn. 3:36). Yet we will not possess the fullness of eternal life until Christ returns (Lk. 18:29-30).

B. Sealed & seated

At our conversion, we were sealed & guaranteed an inheritance in glory (Eph. 1:13-14). We are presently seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). We live with the tension of these blessings until Christ returns.

What we have in Christ will not be fully realized until Christ returns - TENSION.

III. What Will Happen

A. Already

Through His death, Jesus destroyed the devil & his evil works (Heb. 2:14; 1Jn. 3:8). His death was divinely effective – accomplished God’s purpose.

B. Not yet

At the present time we do not see the devil fully & completely destroyed (Heb. 2:8). The devil is still an active enemy – opposing, hindering, oppressing, tempting, etc. (1Pe. 5:8b). The devil will not be completely destroyed until Jesus returns (1Co. 15:24).

What will happen in Christ will not be fully realized until Christ returns - TENSION.