

Waiting in Hope Creates Tension – Part 2

Introduction and Review

- Last week we considered the tension of waiting in general eschatology.
- The bible & particularly the prophetic books are a blend of teaching that has already happened & things 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.
- Three examples of tension: Who We Are (Children & Sanctified), What We have (Eternal Life & Sealed/Seated) & What Will Happen (Jesus destroyed the devil & his works) – already/not yet consummated.

I. The Promise of Christ's Return (Jn. 14:1-3)

A. The circumstances of the promise

Jesus knew that this was the last night before He was to be crucified (13:1). He was about to face unprecedented agony, pain, suffering & death (Is. 52:14; 53:4-5). Yet Jesus is more concerned about the well-being & encouragement of His followers (Jn. 14:1).

B. The comfort of the promise

Jesus was going to physically leave the earth (after His resurrection) to go & prepare a place for believers to dwell forever (v. 2). Believers are to be comforted in anticipation of Jesus' return to take us to be with Him forever (v. 3; 1Th. 4:15-18).

Believers are to be comforted as we wait for the return of Christ.

II. The Time of Christ's Return (Mt. 24:3, 36-46)

A. The desire to know

Because believers anticipate the return of Christ & the end of this age, there is a yearning to know when this will happen (Mt. 24:3; Phil. 3:20-21). The awful result of sin in this world creates a desire to know when this age will end.

B. The tension of not knowing

No believer knows the time of Christ's return (v. 36) Believers will be prepared for His coming & unbelievers will be unprepared (v. 37-41). Therefore believers must be faithful stewards in life & live with the tension (v. 42-46).

Believers must be faithful in life as we wait in anticipation of Christ's return - TENSION.