

What Are You Waiting For?

I am sure you have heard the phrase: “What are you waiting for?” I have heard it used in two different ways, as a challenge and as a question.

Perhaps you have heard a friend make this confession: “I have let myself go. I have eaten too much, not exercised and slept too little. If I continue down this road I will inevitably get high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol, and all of the health complications associated with these conditions. I must, therefore, eat a healthier diet, sleep more and get a healthy dose of regular exercise.

Your response to their confessions and declarations: “Well....what are you waiting for?” By this response you are issuing a challenge: “What is stopping you from making those changes? Just do it! Start making the changes you want to make today! The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be to start and make the changes you know that you have to make.”

However, the same phrase can also ask a very important question. This same question asks a person to reveal a dream or a promise that he or she is holding onto and hopes will be fulfilled.

Perhaps you have heard a career man or woman reveal this dream. “I am waiting for my big break. I am waiting for the project to come along that is going to reveal my true potential. I believe with all my heart, mind and strength that my life-changing project, and my wealthy and influential client are out there and that our paths are meant to cross; and when our paths cross, both of us will know it. I have what it takes! I have all the abilities necessary for success and my abilities will be revealed when the ribbon is cut on the big project. When that project comes it will change everything for me, and my projects and clients will get bigger and bigger.” They wait in confident expectation, with hope that the breakthrough client and project will come.

What are you waiting for? I can tell you what I am waiting for. I am waiting for an earthshaking event to occur. The event will be like nothing we have seen or experienced before in the history of humanity. It will be an event to bring about an end to many things, and the beginning of many things; things that have plagued humankind from the beginning will be brought to an end. I believe that all war will cease; hunger and disease will be wiped out; natural disasters will cease; enmity between people will be wiped out; there will be no more lying, cheating, stealing, fighting, anger, and there will be no depression or despair. I believe that all creation will be made new; innocence will be restored; true love will reign; and there will be peace. The Prophet Isaiah described it this way.

“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra’s den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” (Isaiah 11:6-9)

Isaiah also promised that our cruelest enemy will be destroyed: *On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”* (Isaiah 25:7-9).

The Prophet Isaiah declared that these transformations would be brought about by God’s Messiah, or Anointed King. His conception and birth were to be miraculous. *“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel,”* [Which means, *God with us*] (Isaiah 7:14). The Messiah would

govern his people as a divine ruler for ever. *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called, “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.”* (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Isaiah declared that the Messiah would save people from their sins by his innocent suffering and death, and would then open the doors to eternal life by his glorious resurrection. *“Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”* (Isaiah 53:10-12)

We believe, trust and confess that Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was made one hundred percent true man, and one hundred percent divine. We believe that Jesus lived a perfect sinless life and revealed his divinity through his miracles and teaching. We believe that Jesus was falsely convicted of an offense against God and the Roman state. We believe that he was crucified, suffered, died and was buried. We believe that on the third day he rose from the dead. We believe that Jesus ascended into heaven and reigns over the world with God. Jesus promised to return and bring an end to this time in human history and to establish his everlasting kingdom.

How can dead people be brought back to life and then live eternally? How can all creation be made new in a twinkling of an eye? Science declares that our universe is billions of years old and that life on our planet evolved over millions of years! For many, these words seem impossible to believe. Yet, the Holy Christian Church waits in confident expectation, with hope, that Jesus Christ will be revealed in all of his glory at the end of human history. Why? It certainly is not by our own efforts or understanding. We all live in the same world and have access to the same information. God does not expect you to believe these things by your own effort or strength. God spoke these words through the Prophet Isaiah: *As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.* (Isaiah 55:10-11)

The purpose of God’s word is to create something new in you: faith and trust. God’s most passionate desire is that you believe and trust that He created you and that his Son Jesus Christ saved you from your own sin, from your death and the power of the Devil over you, and that the Holy Spirit will work faith in you and guide you, through this life and into the next. God invites you to take the risk and go to a church near you, listen to His Word so that a seed can be sown and watered in you, and then let God do the rest. God wants this for you. So...What are you waiting for?

In Christ, Pastor Ed

We meet every Sunday morning for worship at 9:00AM and 10:30AM (Sunday School at 10:45AM). From December 7 through 21st, we observe the season of Advent, and Jesus’ second Advent--what we are waiting for. Join us for candlelight worship on Christmas Eve at 5:00PM & 7:00 PM and on Christmas Day at 10:30 AM, with Holy Communion.