

#5 - Why Jesus Waits

October 22, 1844 marked the beginning of the first phase of the judgment and the beginning of the final work of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary prior to His return to earth. Jesus needs the attention of His expectant people to be focused on the activities centered in the Most Holy place. And activities must have a corresponding affect upon Gods waiting people on earth. God's people are being made ready for earth's final crisis and His soon return. Thus, the Lord has established His throne for judgment and for the righteous this means protection, discipline, cleansing, and vindication. It is the most intimate aspect of God's relationship with us, and therefore the most rewarding. Let us take a closer look at what God will do for us in the investigative Judgment.

1. What is God's ultimate goal for His people?

GC 484 – Christ will clothe His faithful ones with His own righteousness, that He may present them to His Father "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." **Ephesians 5:27**. Their names stand enrolled in the book of life, and concerning them it is written: "They shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy." **Revelation 3:4**.

Note : As we know, sanctification (victory) is the daily total surrender of our will to the will of God. It is a work that God does in the repentant sinner who chooses to yield daily to Gods leading by way of an abiding relationship. While with humble trust we meditate upon Jesus we learn to walk in His footsteps. By beholding Him we become changed into His likeness through the inner working of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).

2. Jesus will do this work in the lives of those who want it.

Mal. 3:1-3 - *Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.*

3. The process involves a cooperative investigation.

Ps. 26:1-3 *Vindicate me, O LORD, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip. Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart. For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.*

4. The righteous call for this investigation because they have come to understand that they are blind to their own sinful condition and need the help of Jesus not only for healing, but also for diagnosis. Ps. 19:12 Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.

Psalms 139: 23, 24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.* **I Cor. 4:4,5** - *For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts.*

5. Why is this especially important to the last generation?

GC 425 Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, **of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth.**

Note: The “putting away of sin” is another way of saying no longer giving in to it. It means living above its power through the ministration of our Great High Priest. Here we also find the reason for why Jesus has not returned yet for His people.

6. Why has Jesus not returned before now?

PH145 *Christ is waiting* with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of the Saviour shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim His own. It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, **but to hasten**, the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel! Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come.

Note: This is the reason why Jesus has not returned yet. His waiting is an act of mercy. For Him to return before His people are ready would be fatal to them. So He waits. He waits for His people to believe Him and cooperate with Him so He can finish the work He has begun in them. When this work is “done” he will come to claim them as His own. Jesus will finally leave the Most Holy place when there is no longer a need for His mediatory work.

7. But how is this waiting affecting God?

ED.263 - Those who think of the result of hastening or hindering the gospel think of it in relation to themselves and to the world. Few think of its relation to God. Few give thought to the suffering that sin has caused our Creator. All heaven suffered in Christ's agony; but that suffering did not begin or end with His manifestation in humanity. The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God. **Every** departure from the right, **every** deed of cruelty, **every** failure of humanity to reach His ideal, brings grief to Him.

Ok, but how do we cooperate in this work?

First we must understand and believe that God wants to deal with the sin in our lives. He wants to deal with it on three levels. The 1st is at the level of outward behavior, the 2nd is at the level of our thoughts, and the 3rd is at the level of unknown or ignorant sins. What we are looking at here is total victory over sin...total!

8. For what purpose does God want to deal with sin in its totality?

Ephesians 5:27 *That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

Youth Instructor 1899 - But Christ...was to bear the penalty of the transgression of the law of God, not to give men liberty to continue in sin, but to take away their inclination to sin, that they might not desire to transgress. Those who receive Christ **are obedient** to his commands; for his mind is given to them. He imbues them with his spirit of obedience, and they return to their loyalty.

T3 p. 538 – It may take time to attain perfect submission to God's will, but we can never stop short of it and be fitted for heaven. True religion will lead its possessor on to perfection. Your thoughts, your words, and your actions, as well as your appetites and passions, must be brought into subjection to the will of God. You must bear fruit unto holiness.

Desire of Ages p. 302 - If the eye is kept **fixed** on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image.

Note: This work will can and will be accomplished in one generation.

9. This process involves our cooperation by examining ourselves in the light of God's Word.

II Cor. 13:5 - *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.*

I Cor. 11:31, 32 - *For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.*

10. Every secret thing is brought out in the judgment including our thoughts and motives.

Ecc. 12:14 - *For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing...*

Prov. 16:2 - *All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, **But** the LORD weighs the spirits.*

Heb. 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

11. Even hereditary sins are considered in the judgment.

Eze. 20:4 - *Will you judge them, son of man, will you judge them? Then make known to them the abominations of their fathers. **See Ex. 20:5 (last part)*

12. God will graciously show us everything that keeps us from fully reflecting His character.

Phil 3:15 - *Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.*

13. This is not to condemn us, but so that we may repent and live.

Eze. 18:30-32 - *Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin." "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? "For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"*

14. God's righteous judgments teach and train us so that we may share in His holiness and reap a harvest of righteousness and peace.

Heb. 12:10,11 - *For they (Our earthly dads) indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

15. The end result of this work will be the cleansing of the conscience from **all** sinful principles, and through the mighty agency of the Holy Spirit, writing upon the mind the principles of God's law as is promised under the provisions for the new covenant.

*2 Peter 1:2-4 - Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us **exceeding great and precious promises**: that by these ye might be partakers of the **divine nature**, having **escaped** the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

ED.126 - The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the word of God. This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature and re-creates the soul in the image of God.

Heb. 9:14 - *how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Php 1:6 *For of this I am confident, that **He** who has begun a good work within you will go on to perfect it in preparation for the day of Jesus Christ. (WNT)*

Jude 24 - *Now unto **him** that is able to **keep you from falling**, and to present you **faultless** before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*

16. What does the life look like when God's law is written in the heart?

Gal 5:22, 23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (It looks just like Jesus)*

17. What will be the final result of Christ's Judgment work in His end time saints?

Re 14:12 *Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that **keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus**.*

18. What Warning does our Great High Priest have for us today?

GC.491 - *"Watch ye therefore: . . . lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping." Mark 13:35, 36. Perilous is the condition of those who, growing weary of their watch, **turn to the attractions of the world**. While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments--it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Daniel 5:27.*