

Why Jesus Waits

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.**

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?"*

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

*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.*

*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 loving
kindness is before my eyes, And I have
walked in Your truth.*

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.*

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.**

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.

Education 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

How does this work?

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.

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.*

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.*

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.*

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.*

*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!"*

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

Hebrews 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.*

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.*

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.*

*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.*

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

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

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.

Why Jesus Waits