

CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

Oregon District LWML

Volume 60

November 2021

“WAITING”

Patience is not one of my virtues. Yet it seems much of my time is spent waiting.

We’ve all been told “wait a minute!” And that minute stretches into much longer than a minute, doesn’t it? Waiting for a diagnosis, waiting for company to arrive, waiting for a loved one to enter into the arms of our loving heavenly father, waiting for the announcement of a baby’s arrival, waiting for a surgery date, waiting, waiting, waiting...

I wonder how long God waited before He created the world? Must have been an eternity! And when He created it, it was GOOD!

Scripture has a lot to say about waiting and watching. We are not alone in our waiting.

David the shepherd, David the warrior, David the King pleaded for deliverance as he waited for God to help him.

Psalm 59 has numerous appeals of waiting, or asking for deliverance. Verse 3 says *“They lie in wait for my soul”* (sound familiar in our day?) In Psalm 59:9 *“Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defense.”* Psalm 5:3 says *“In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice, in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.”*

There are MANY references of “lying in wait” in fear of enemies, wait for the Lord, waiting for answers, wait for deliverance. Psalm 40:1 *“I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.”* We wait for God’s salvation, Psalm 119:166 *“I wait for your salvation, Lord, and I follow your commands”*. We wait for the morning, Psalm 130:5-6 *“I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.”*

It is comforting to know we are not waiting alone. The folks in the Bible waited and waited, some with patience and some who wanted to take it all into their own hands. (Again, does this sound familiar?) I think of Noah, waiting for the rains to stop, then waiting for the waters to recede all the time in the ark with all those animals!

We’ve often used the expression referring to the “patience of Job” but he really wasn’t patient. He complained, he was angry, and confused, but in the end, he could say “I know that my redeemer lives!” I think of the children of Israel waiting to enter the promised land – 40 years! And down through the centuries they and we wait for the Messiah to come. We wait for His coming again. Always waiting for deliverance.

James 5:7-8: *“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm because the Lord’s coming is near.”*

And what do we do while we wait? Yes, of course we pray, tell and sing.

We are soon to be entering the season of Advent. We wait, we watch, we prepare.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!”



“Be Still My Soul”

Lutheran Hymnal #651

Be still, my soul: The Lord is on thy side;
With patience bear thy cross of grief or pain.

Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In ev’ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: Thy best, thy heav’nly
Friend

Thru thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: Thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: The waves and winds still
know

His voice who ruled them while he dwelt
below.

Be still, my soul: The hour is hast’ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are
gone,

Sorrow forgot; love’s purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: When change and tears
are past,

All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.