

Active Patience

ADVENT 2

Worship
IN THE
Waiting

NewLife
CHURCH CRAWLEY

ACTIVE PATIENCE

Where are you
on the scale?

YET/NOT YET TENSION OF KINGDOM

Kingdom Now
Jesus is King
Satan defeated
Sick are healed
Jesus resurrected

Kingdom Not Yet FULLY
Kingdom incomplete
Still temptation/battle
Some not yet healed
Creation groans

READING 2 PETER 3
ACTIVE PATIENCE

WHERE IS THIS “COMING”?

2 Peter 3:3-4

NOT SLOW, BUT PATIENT

Peter's first response to this question is significant:

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient...” (2 Peter 3:9)

**KNOWING THAT GOD IS
PATIENT AND PREPARED TO
WAIT SHOULD CHALLENGE THE
HURRIEDNESS OF OUR
MODERN LIVES.**

“The ability to calm your soul and wait before God is one of the most difficult things in the Christian life. Our old nature is restless... the world around us is frantically in a hurry. But a restless heart usually leads to a reckless life.”

— Warren Wiersbe

What is the difference between being
slow & being patient?

PATIENCE HAS A PURPOSE

Peter tells us that God has a vital reason why he is holding back his return:

“He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

CLEANSING FIRE

Peter describes God's final judgement like this:

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.” (2 Peter 3:10)

A SPIRITUAL HEAVEN?

That idea ignores the wider biblical picture which Peter is drawing on, the promise of Isaiah of a new heaven and new earth (Isaiah 65:17, 66:22).

*“in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a **NEW** heaven and a **NEW** earth”*
(2 Peter 3:13).

neo and kainos

*Worship
IN THE
Waiting*

CLEANSING FIRE

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The Bible often speaks of God's judgement as a cleansing fire which burns off impurities:

“But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.”

(Malachi 3:2-3, Zechariah 13:9, 1 Peter 1:7)

FACING ETERNAL JUDGEMENT

- **2 Corinthians 5:10**
- **Hebrews 9:27**
- **Hebrews 6:1-3** a basic Christian doctrine that there is eternal judgement to face.

ACTIVE EXPECTATION

When you are waiting for something,
knowing what you are waiting for
changes how you wait.

**Knowing what God will do when Jesus returning
to fulfil His Kingdom ought to change how we
live today.**

“Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? ... So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.”

(2 Peter 3:11-12,14)

SINCE THIS SHOULD BE OUR ULTIMATE GOAL HERE IS HOW WE CAN LIVE:

- We can live in ways which please God, which imitate Jesus
- We can work for the good of his creation
- We can build the church community and wider society to be a blessing
- We can seek justice and fairness.
- We should communicate the Kingdom of God in how we speak and live

CONCLUSION:

(on screen and in activity packs)

How could you wait actively patiently
wait for Jesus?

Finish this Sentence:

Wait and _____

**Part of that active patience &
waiting is found in Communion:**

**“Proclaim the Lords death till He
comes” 1 Cor 11:26**

