

THE PATIENCE OF CHRIST  
2 Thess. 3:5

Beloved of the Lord:

The saints at Thessalonica were taught of Christ's return, but while waiting, some failed to show the love of God in their conduct, imposing on fellow brethren. Read Ch.3:6-14. Therefore Paul wrote - "The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patience of Christ". They lacked "the patience of Christ". The Saviour has been long waiting the time of His return with patience, doing His unfinished work of intercession as our great High Priest in heaven. While He works above, we should not be ashamed to work below. What is the blessed Lord above patiently waiting for?

1 - PATIENTLY WAITING FOR HIS BRIDE - to meet her "in the air"-1 Thess.4:17. Even before His death and sufferings on the Cross, He expressed to His own the desire of His great loving heart to receive His Bride to Himself - "I will come again and receive you unto MYSELF". He anticipated the coming re-union with them, when He would escort them into the "Father's house". Many centuries have elapsed since, but still He speaks these precious words to His own today, words of consolation and encouragement to weary hearts today! His return will be great joy to us, but greater joy for HIM, for it is written - "God hath anointed thee with the oil of GLADNESS above Thy companions" - Heb. 1:9. And He waits with patience!

2 - PATIENTLY WAITING FOR HIS DAY - What is this but "the day of Christ"-Phil.1:6;2:16; 1 Cor.1:8;5:5. "The day"-1 Cor.3:13; "that day"-2 Tim.1:12,18;4:8. It is His great day of joy when He rewards His faithful servants as He promises in Rev. 22:12 - "Behold, I come quickly and my reward is with me, to give every man as his work shall be". He will have the greatest delight to bestow on worthy recipients an "Incorruptible Crown"-1 Cor.9:25; the "Crown of Righteousness"-2 Tim.4:8; the "Crown of Life"-Jas.1:12;Rev.2:10; the "Crown of Rejoicing"-1 Thess.2:19; the shepherd's "Crown of Glory"- 1Pet.5:4. Should we rob HIM of HIS JOY in not serving Him faithfully NOW? Beloved, are you and am I living for THAT DAY"?

3 - PATIENTLY WAITING FOR THE DAY OF VENGEANCE - Read Isa.61:2;Rom.12:19. A sad fact; but when He was enthroned in heaven, God said - "Sit Thou on my right hand until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool" - Psa.110:1;Heb.10:13. His enemies occupy seats of power in this world. All through history the enemies of God have existed, opposing Him, His Gospel, His Word, His Son and His people. Would be Nebuchednezzars still defy the laws of God and human rights. The climax will be under the reign of the "man of sin" - 2Thess.2:3. In "flaming fire" and "sudden destruction" Christ will crush His foes - 2Thess.1:7-10;2:8. Centuries of world enmity against God will culminate with divine vengeance on "them that know not God". Only the "longsuffering" of God has delayed it - 2 Pet. 3:9. He has been patient!

4 - PATIENTLY WAITING FOR ISRAEL'S GLORY - Israel is still beloved of God for "the father's sake" and a national day, resurrection and restoration, is promised-Ezek37:1-14; Daniel 12. There will be a national day of repentance-Zech. 12:10 to 13:2; a day of Deliverance for God's earthly people-Rom.11:26. At Christ's incarnation, He was promised the glory of the throne of David - Lu.1:32,33. What patience He has shown, waiting this glory. In that day the living nations will be blessed under Him and His reign - Zech.9:10;14:9. The Saviour waits to hear Israel say - "Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord". How patient He has been to Israel!

5 - PATIENTLY WAITING FOR THE NEW CREATION - Waiting for that eternal joy when the New Creation dawns, when ALL things will be NEW! The NEW heaven, NEW earth; NEW Jerusalem in eternal radiance, tearless, sinless, deathless and ALL glorious will exist for ever! Read Rev. 21:1-5. Who can express in words HIS eternal joy when the work of redemption will be complete. HE will have the greatest joy - for "He shall see of the travail of His soul and BE SATISFIED" - Isa. 53:11. His patience will then be eternally vindicated and all the sufferings of the Cross perfectly compensated with eternal glory for HIM! "All the pain of Calvary's story, Told in Answering glory now!" In view of His long patience and His coming glory, instead of singing "That will be glory for ME" as we look for Him to come, let us sing - "THAT WILL BE GLORY FOR HIM!" for "To HIM be glory and dominion FOR EVER AND EVER - AMEN" - Rev. 1:6. -

Yours in Christ - J.W. GRAMHALL