



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

January 31, 2016

We Wait by Faith

Irvin Himmel

To the Galatians, Paul wrote, "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith" (Gal. 5:5). The main thought in that sentence furnishes the title of this article.

1. We wait by faith when the gospel is preached. After the farmer or gardener sows the seed, he cultivates, waters, and cares for the plant, patiently waiting for the harvest. He has faith that the seed will germinate, the soil will be productive, and the sunshine will cause growth according to God's natural laws.

In like manner, we do not expect immediate results each time the seed of the kingdom is sown. We show our faith in God's word, in the divine laws for the growth of the kingdom, and in the promises of God by cultivating and watering, and by patiently waiting for the increase.

2. We wait by faith for the coming of the Lord. Jesus has promised that He will come again (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11). No one knows of that day or that hour (Matt. 24:36). We do know that "unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28). Our citizenship is in--heaven, "from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20). "Look for" in this passage is the same as "wait" in Gal. 5:5. It conveys the thought of eager expectation as well as patient readiness.

3. We wait by faith for eternal life. We who are Christians live "in hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Tit. 1:2). That which is the grand object of our hope is unseen, for "hope that is seen is not hope . . . But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Rom. 8:24, 25). This is what Paul is referring to in Gal. 5:5. We, through the Spirit's revelation by means of the word of God, wait for the hope of righteousness. The Spirit reveals that righteousness or justification is through Jesus Christ, not the works of the law of Moses. Eternal life is the hope offered to all who attain to the righteousness that comes through the exercise of faith in Jesus Christ. We wait (rather than grow discouraged or turn back) for the hope of righteousness by faith.

The life of the Christian is one of the earnest expectation and diligent service in patient waiting; it is a life of fidelity to Christ.

Northside
church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.
- We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.

Five Day A Week Reading Plan

Mon: Lev. 11-15

Tues: Lev. 16-20

Wed: Lev. 21-25

Thurs: Lev. 25 - Num. 3

Fri: Numbers 4-8

Winning Last Place Steve Klein

We live in a society that is sports crazy. We love football and fishing, racing and wrestling, soccer and softball -- not to mention baseball, basketball and golf. Nearly all of us have had the experience of cheering for our team or favorite player to win, whether the contest was professional, college, high school or just the youth league team that our child or grandchild played on. And many of us have participated in sports ourselves. We've personally experienced "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

From a spiritual perspective, sports are not necessarily a bad thing. According to the Bible, sports teach us important lessons about disciplining ourselves when striving for a goal (1 Corinthians 9:24-27), playing by the rules (2 Timothy 2:5), and running with endurance (Hebrews 12:1). Obviously, we can allow sports to become a bad thing if we place too much importance on them or allow them to crowd out spiritual concerns. But sports can also impact us negatively in other ways. They can train us to be too competitive, self-seeking, and ambitious -- too concerned with winning at all costs.

In most sports competitions, everyone wants first place. But there are times in the life of every Christian when he should seek last place. In Mark 9:35, Jesus told the twelve apostles, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees because "They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues" (Matthew 23:6). He told His disciples, "But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place . . ." (Luke 14:10).

The Bible reveals that we should be striving to win last place in our relationships with others!

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." (Philippians 2:3).

". . . Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."" (1 Peter 5:5).

". . . Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion." (Romans 12:16).

Here are some practical suggestions for winning last place. The next time that you disagree with a brother in an area of judgment or opinion, insist that your brother get his way. The next time that your wife or husband neglects to do a chore that merely benefits you, do it yourself. The next time they are looking for a volunteer at work to do some menial task, volunteer! Win last place!