

HOW TO WAIT FOR THE LORD
Follow Christ
 Banská Bystrica, 28th November 2021

Ἔστωσαν ὑμῶν αἱ ὀσφύες περιεζωσμέναι, καὶ οἱ λύχνοι καυόμενοι. ³⁶ καὶ ὑμεῖς ὅμοιοι ἀνθρώποις προσδεχομένοις τὸν κύριον ἑαυτῶν, πότε ἀναλύσῃ ἐκ τῶν γάμων, ἵνα, ἐλθόντος καὶ κρούσαντος, εὐθέως ἀνοίξωσιν αὐτῷ. ³⁷ Μακάριοι οἱ δοῦλοι ἐκεῖνοι, οὓς ἐλθὼν ὁ κύριος εὐρήσει γρηγοροῦντας· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι περιζώσεται καὶ ἀνακλιεῖ αὐτούς, καὶ παρελθὼν διακονήσει αὐτοῖς. ³⁸ Καὶ ἐὰν ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δευτέρᾳ φυλακῇ, καὶ ἐν τῇ τρίτῃ φυλακῇ ἔλθῃ, καὶ εὕρῃ οὕτως, μακάριοί εἰσιν οἱ δοῦλοι ἐκεῖνοι. ³⁹ Τοῦτο δὲ γινώσκετε, ὅτι εἰ ἤδει ὁ οἰκοδεσπότης ποῖα ὥρα ὁ κλέπτης ἔρχεται, ἐγρηγόρησεν ἂν, καὶ οὐκ ἂν ἀφήκεν διορυγῆναι τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ. ⁴⁰ Καὶ ὑμεῖς οὖν γίνεσθε ἔτοιμοι· ὅτι ἡ ὥρα οὐ δοκεῖτε ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἔρχεται. ⁴¹ Εἶπεν δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Πέτρος, Κύριε, πρὸς ἡμᾶς τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην λέγεις, ἢ καὶ πρὸς πάντας; ⁴² Εἶπεν δὲ ὁ κύριος, Τίς ἄρα ἐστὶν ὁ πιστὸς οἰκονόμος καὶ φρόνιμος, ὃν καταστήσει ὁ κύριος ἐπὶ τῆς θεραπείας αὐτοῦ, τοῦ διδόναι ἐν καιρῷ τὸ σιτομέτριον; ⁴³ Μακάριος ὁ δοῦλος ἐκεῖνος, ὃν ἐλθὼν ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ εὐρήσει ποιῶντα οὕτως. ⁴⁴ Ἀληθῶς λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἐπὶ πάνσιν τοῖς ὑπάρχουσιν αὐτοῦ καταστήσει αὐτόν. ⁴⁵ Ἐὰν δὲ εἴπῃ ὁ δοῦλος ἐκεῖνος ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτοῦ, Χρονίζει ὁ κύριός μου ἔρχεσθαι, καὶ ἄρξῃται τύπτειν τοὺς παῖδας καὶ τὰς παιδίσκας, ἐσθίειν τε καὶ πίνειν καὶ μεθύσκεσθαι. ⁴⁶ ἤξει ὁ κύριος τοῦ δούλου ἐκείνου ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ἣ οὐ προσδοκᾷ, καὶ ἐν ὥρᾳ ἣ οὐ γινώσκει· καὶ διχοτομήσει αὐτόν, καὶ τὸ μέρος αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀπίστων θήσει. ⁴⁷ Ἐκεῖνος δὲ ὁ δοῦλος ὁ γνοὺς τὸ θέλημα τοῦ κυρίου ἑαυτοῦ, καὶ μὴ ἐτοιμάσας μηδὲ ποιήσας πρὸς τὸ θέλημα αὐτοῦ, δαρήσεται πολλάς. ⁴⁸ ὁ δὲ μὴ γνοὺς, ποιήσας δὲ ἄξια πληγῶν, δαρήσεται ὀλίγας. Παντὶ δὲ ᾧ ἐδόθη πολὺ, πολὺ ζητηθήσεται παρ' αὐτοῦ· καὶ ᾧ παρέθετο πολὺ, περισσότερον αἰτήσουσιν αὐτόν.

Luke 12:35-48 ³⁵ "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." ⁴¹ Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?" ⁴² And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁵ But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, ⁴⁶ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷ And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. ⁴⁸ But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION

- 0.1. FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE
- 0.2. WAITING
- 0.3. TIMING UNCERTAIN

1. WORK!

- 1.1. CALLING
- 1.2. RELATIONSHIPS

2. WATCH!

- 2.1. NIGHT
- 2.2. LIGHT

3. TO REMEMBER

0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

- [Darrell Bock] “Disciples are to live in light of the end-time.”
- HOPE – one of the three “theological virtues”
- **1Thes 1:9-10** you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- **Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,¹³ waiting for our blessed hope (προσδεχόμενοι τὴν μακαρίαν ἐλπίδα) the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works
11 Zjavila sa totiž Božia milosť prinášajúca spásu všetkým ľuďom, 12 ktorá nás vychováva, aby sme sa zriekli bezbožnosti a svetských žiadostí a žili v terajšom veku rozvážne, spravodlivo a nábožne, 13 a očakávali blahoslavenú nádej a zjavenie slávy veľkého Boha a nášho Spasiteľa Ježiša Krista. 14 On vydal za nás seba samého, aby nás vykúpil z každej neprávosti a aby si očistil svoj vyvolený ľud, ktorý sa horlivo usiluje o dobré skutky.
- [HENRY Matthew] “Christ's servants are now in a state of expectation, looking for their Master's glorious appearing”

0.2. WAITING

- → losing focus; bored; tired; doubtful; → **2 Peter 3:3** ...scoffers will come in the last days...
→ substitutes: entertainment;

<https://psychcentral.com/blog/the-psychology-of-waiting-in-lines-8-reasons-that-the-wait-seems-long#1>
(28-Nov-21)

The Psychology of Waiting

8 Factors that Make the Wait Seem Longer

I'm a very impatient person, and standing in a slow-moving line drives me crazy. So, I set out to understand the psychology behind my frustration. In my quest, I happened to read a paper by David Maister, The Psychology of Waiting Lines (PDF). The piece is aimed at people who operate stores, restaurants, doctors' offices, and other places where people fuss about being kept waiting. Of course, most of us are the ones standing in line, not the ones controlling the line. But I was fascinated by the insight this paper provided into my own psychology of waiting. Maister's main point is that the actual time we're waiting may have little to do with how long the wait feels. Here's a list of eight factors that make waits seem longer.

1. Unoccupied time feels longer than occupied time. → BOREDOM

When you have something to distract yourself, time passes more quickly. Some hotels put mirrors by the elevators, because people like to look at themselves.

2. People want to get started. → IMPATIENCE

This is why restaurants give you a menu while you wait, and why the orthodontist puts my daughter in the examination room twenty-five minutes before her exam actually begins.

3. Anxiety makes waits seem longer. → DISQUIETING THOUGHTS

If you think you've chosen the slowest line at the drugstore, or you're worried about getting a seat on the plane, the wait will seem longer.

4. Uncertain waits are longer than known, finite waits. → LACK OF INFORMATION

People wait more calmly when they're told, “The doctor will see you in thirty minutes” than when they're told, “The doctor will see you soon.” Maister gives an amusing illustration of a phenomenon that I'd noticed in my own life: if I arrive someplace thirty minutes early, I wait with perfect patience, but three minutes after my appointment time passes, I start to feel annoyed. “Just how long am I going to have to wait?” I think.

5. Unexplained waits are longer than explained waits. → ...

We wait more patiently for the pizza guy when there's a thunderstorm than when the sky is clear.

6. Unfair waits are longer than equitable waits. → SENSE OF INJUSTICE

People want their waits to be fair. I get anxious, for instance, when I'm waiting on a crowded subway platform, when there's no clear, fair way to determine who gets on the next car. The "FIFO" rule (first in, first out) is a great rule, when it works. But sometimes certain people need attention more urgently, or certain people are more valuable customers. Then it gets trickier. Often, when people are treated out of sequence, it's helpful to have them be served elsewhere — e.g., people giving customer service by phone shouldn't be in the same room as people giving service in person.

7. The more valuable the service, the longer the customer will wait. → GREAT EVENTS

You'll wait longer to talk to a doctor than to talk to a sales clerk. You'll stand in line longer to buy an iPad than to buy a toothbrush.

8. Solo waits feel longer than group waits. → LACK OF FELLOWSHIP

The more people engage with each other, the less they notice the wait time. In fact, in some situations, waiting in line is part of the experience. During my book signings, I've been very gratified to have people tell me, "I had so much fun talking to the people in line!"

Since I've read this paper, I've been far more patient about standing in line. I'm occupied (see #1) with thoughts analyzing my own experience of waiting in line! Also, it may not always be good for us to be able to distract ourselves with our cell phones, but it sure makes the DMV easier.

0.3. TIMING UNCERTAIN

- → constant watchfulness
- as a THIEF! → can you prepare a "timetable?"
- many predictions...

1. WORK!

- God and his salvation

1.1. CALLING

- WHY do we work? → to find my own sense of purpose and fulfillment??? → disappointed Christians
- for WHOM do you work?

[Os Guinness *The Audience of One*.] "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless." Behind the voice of God is the eye of God and behind the eye the face and behind the face the heart. To follow the call of God is therefore to live before the heart of God. It is to live life coram deo (before the heart of God) and thus to shift our awareness of audiences to the point where only the last and highest – God – counts.

- WHAT is your particular MISSION? → spiritual GIFTS → praying for gifts / using gifts → Rom 12; 1Cor 12 → in your secular job you are a DISCIPLE → life purpose
- for WHOM do you PRAY? → the most important work of the Christian → getting concrete answers? (**Luke 11:10** For everyone who asks receives)
- what is your use of TIME? → **Eph 5:16** ...making the best use of the time, because the days are evil
- what is your ATTITUDE to work? → **Rom 12:11** Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

1.2. RELATIONSHIPS

- master-slave relations → **James 4:11** The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law.
- **Gal 6:10** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith (πρὸς τοὺς οἰκείους τῆς πίστεως).
- **Phil 2:3** Do nothing from rivalry or conceit (κατὰ ἐρίθειαν ἢ κενοδοξίαν), but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

- **Gal 5:26** Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another...
- **DRUNKENNESS**
 - types: alcohol? work? lusts? hobbies?

2. WATCH!

- [Darrell Bock] “burning lamps shows someone’s readiness to move about during darkness (Exod. 27:20)”
- contrast: light and darkness
- **Col 1:13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son

2.1. NIGHT

- world situation → **Rom 13:11-14** Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² **The night** is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
- others sleep → **1Thes 5:7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night
- **Luke 1:78-79** ...the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
- 1Thes 5:5 ...for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;
- John 9:4 We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.
- John 11:10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

2.2. LIGHT

- prepared to move; to work; to respond
- the light of a GUIDED REASON (**Job 32:8** But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand)
- the light of the WORD (**Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path)
- the light of JESUS (**John 8:12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.)
- **1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin

3. TO REMEMBER

- The business of life of a Christian is to wait for the Lord.
- Waiting means working and watching. Check your relationships!
- Protect your source of light! Do not let the surrounding darkness overwhelm you.