

IS IT WORTH THE WAIT?

By Keith Greer

"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. ¶ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience." (Hebrews 4:9-11)

Sometimes, as we busy ourselves with the "everyday" routine of our lives, it is all too easy to lose our perspective of "what it's all about". As Christians, should we ever live as though we have nothing to look forward to? Have we lost sight of our purpose on earth?

Jesus suffered much on this earth. Just as Isaiah had prophesied, He was "despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: ... " (Isaiah 53:3) And yet, through Him, we have the hope of eternal life - a home with God for eternity. Do we really consider what that means?

Before our Lord was put to death, He prayed a beautiful prayer that we can read in John 17. Jesus prayed for His disciples, "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world" (John 17: 15,16) They would live in the world, and would have to go through many trials, tribulations, and difficulties, but there would be one great difference - THE HOPE OF HEAVEN.

As Jesus continued His prayer in John 17, He said "neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." {John 17:20}

God never promised us a "walk in the park". As Christians, we often have obstacles to overcome, feelings we must deal with, and discouragements along the way. Have you ever found yourself asking, "Why am I putting myself through this? Is it worth it?"

Life can seem so cruel at times when things overtake us by surprise when we least expect it – life has thrown us a curve. What goes through our mind? When you're sitting in a doctor's office looking at the x-rays and the news is we have inoperable cancer. Terrible and heart wrenching news, but after the shock wears off, where should the mind of God's children go?

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; ... "(1 Peter 4: 12-13) "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (2 Timothy 3:12)

The apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain ... For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." (Philippians 1:21-24)

There isn't anything we can suffer that will ever compare with the sacrifice that has been made for us. Wouldn't it be wonderful if each of us could say, with the same confidence of Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown

of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day and not to me only but to all those who love His appearing." (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

Yes, life is unpredictable and nothing always goes exactly like we have planned. Take a deep breath and relax. Enjoy the blessings God has given us in our lives – family, brethren, friends, a job, a home and the ability to provide for our own. Yet, never forget this very important truth – all things in life are temporal. Nothing on this earth has any enduring value and we should never put our trust and happiness on temporal things.

Yes, we can confidently sing “This World Is Not My Home” and not be sad about this truth. Why? A home in heaven will surely be worth it all – right? ***