**At Peace and Waiting**

*But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.****9****The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.****10****But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

***11****Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,****12****waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!****13****But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

***14****Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.****15****And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him… (2 Peter 3:8-15, ESV)*

 As we wait for the Lord’s arrival[[1]](#footnote-1), it is important to wait patiently. Greetings dear brothers and sisters as we talk about the theme of the 2nd Sunday of Advent, which has to do with waiting and being at peace. Generally, in this Advent season, the Second Coming of Christ is talked about because the latter is also a promise which is going to be fulfilled, just as God send His Son, our Messiah Jesus the first time around 2000 years ago. Having said that, God has called us as believers to always be waiting for Christ’s arrival, but not with agitation or a wavering faith, but rather a Godly peace. Thus, today we are going to talk about that very calling to be peaceful while we wait, since both the world and the church need true spiritual peace, which we can reflect through our faith lives. Again, it is important for us as believers to wait for the Lord’s coming in peace. Let’s see how we can have that stance in whatever situation we find ourselves.

 Though the Lord is faithful in keeping His promises, we must live in our faith-life peace as we wait for Him. The Apostle Peter was writing to the church to remind them that in the last days of history, there would be many mockers of Jesus, casting doubt on the Lord’s promise to return to His Church. He was saying that those mockers did not want people to remember God’s already-fulfilled promises in the Scriptures. They did not want people to fear God, to remember that one day, the Lord was going to come and that a judgement would take place with all their works fully exposed. Today’s expectation from the church worldwide is the same: that Christ will come unexpectedly like a thief, and that we often see signs of that kind of intervention in our own personal lives and our circles. Peter says that the believer is supposed to always be at peace, since no one knows when he or she will see the Lord. It is the spotless, pure life, lived with love that every believer is called to, says the Apostle.

 In this regard, Biblical prophecy provides some of the greatest encouragement and hope available to us today. Just as the Old Testament is saturated with prophecies concerning Christ's first advent, so both testaments are filled with references to the second coming of Christ. One scholar has estimated that there are 1,845 references to Christ's second coming in the Old Testament, where 17 books give it prominence. In the 260 chapters of the New Testament, there are 318 references to the second advent of Christ--an amazing 1 out of every 30 verses. Twenty-three of the 27 New Testament books refer to this great event. For every prophecy in the Bible concerning Christ's first advent, there are 8 which look forward to His second!

 Therefore, as we see the world go through its chaotic moments and ups and downs, and as our lives go through many shakings, over and through many waves like a ship in a storm, let us remember that we are called to be at peace in this “boat” of our life, as we wait for our Lord’s arrival. God is going to come to us, but the important thing is, in what state of mind will He find us? Yes, God is going to judge the whole world, but in the meantime, we are called to function in a “faith-filled life” as we wait for that event. The Lord’s peace should rule over our lives as we live out pure and undefiled lives.

 May God give us that patience to both wait for Him and also focus on being at peace in the process. So, if you are struggling today and you are not joyful or peaceful in this Advent season, ask the Lord for His peace, wait for His intervention, since He will surely fulfill His promise, as He always has in the Scriptures.

 Though the Lord is faithful in keeping His promises, we must live in our faith-life peace as we wait for Him. As we wait for the Lord’s arrival, it is important to wait patiently. The Lord bless you all. Amen.

1. Both in everyday interventions as well as His Second Coming [↑](#footnote-ref-1)