

Watching and Waiting

*“Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.”
Luke 2:25 (NIV)*

*“Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.”
Romans 8:23 (NIV)*

Simeon was a godly old man who had a promise from the Lord. God had told him that he would not die before he saw “the consolation of Israel”. That expression refers to the coming of the promised Messiah.

We can only imagine the longing in the old man’s heart as he went to the temple every day and wondered if that would be the day when the “messenger of the covenant” would appear there (Malachi 3:1). Perhaps he went home in the evening with sadness in his heart that yet another day had come and gone without the Messiah appearing.

In Simeon’s day a few Jews were known as the Quiet in the land. These people qui-

etly watched and waited for the coming of the Messiah of promise. This elderly man was among that group of devoted Jews.

In our second verse for today Paul the apostle speaks about God’s people having two very different emotions as they go through life here on earth. They groan and they are eagerly waiting.

Christians long for the day when their mortal bodies will be thrown off in order for them to dress themselves in their eternal bodies. We who believe in Jesus want the full results of His work on the cross to be applied to us.

It is with eager anticipation that we yearn for the removal of the curse spoken

of in Romans 5 and Genesis 3. When that day comes all the results of sin will be permanently cast aside. Things like sickness, sorrow and even death itself, will be removed and we shall inherit the full measure of our Lord’s work on our behalf.

May you have grace to watch and wait patiently for the full blessing of your salvation to be given to you. May God, by His Spirit, fill your horizon with a holy expectation of what has been promised to every child of God.

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