

**BOOK OF 2 THESSALONIANS**  
**“THE LORD DIRECT YOUR HEARTS...**  
**INTO THE PATIENT WAITING FOR CHRIST”**  
**2 THESSALONIANS 3:5b**

**Introduction**

This verse reveals the Apostle Paul’s prayer and heart’s desire for these believers and it is twofold here:

**1. For the LORD to direct their hearts into the love of God!**

We saw the importance of this last week!

- a. We saw how believers should love God above all else!
- b. We saw how sometimes we fail in our love for God!
- c. We saw how we sometimes need to be redirected back to loving God! (Who better to do that than the LORD Himself!)

Now I want to look at the second part of Paul’s prayer and desire...

**2. For the LORD to direct their hearts into the patient waiting for Christ!**

Well alrighty then, what does that even mean?

**WHAT IS THE PATIENT WAITING FOR CHRIST?**

The words *"patient waiting"* here means a *"cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, a constancy."* It is not sitting idly by and doing nothing! (That’s called laziness!)

It is a patient *continuing* in the things that we’ve been called to as we wait with a *willingness to endure* difficulty in the face of trials, *assuredly knowing* what our future is in Christ!

Understand that this grace of *"patience,"* or *"persevering endurance,"* is connected very closely with the *"hope"* of Christ’s coming! (*1Thessalonians 1:3, 1Thessalonians 1:10*)

It is the **grace of our hope in Christ** (remember that Biblical *hope* = *confident expectation*)

So, no matter what we are called to face until our Lord Jesus Christ comes for us, we must patiently endure it and wait for His appearing!

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An old-time Puritan preacher from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century by the name of Thomas Manton had this to say about what this *"patient waiting for Christ"* is. *"It is the grace of hope fortifying our resolutions for God and the world to come, that we may continue in our duty till our work be finished and our warfare ended."*

**How Is This Patient Waiting Expressed? (5 simple points)**

**I. IT IS EXPRESSED BY OUR LEAVING!**

This is a negative aspect of waiting!

*(Titus 2:12— "...denying ungodliness and worldly lusts...")*

When we are patiently waiting for our Lord’s return, it is going to affect what we allow ourselves to be involved in!

e.g. **Matthew 24:36-51**

**II. IT IS EXPRESSED BY OUR LIVING!**

This is a positive aspect of waiting!

*(Titus 2:12— "...we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world...")*

*Romans 13:11-14 11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, ("leaving"...negative aspect!) and let us put on the armour of light. ("living"... positive aspect!) 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; ("living"...positive aspect!) not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. ("leaving"...negative aspect)14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

*Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

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*How Is This Patient Waiting Expressed?*

*IT IS EXPRESSED BY OUR LEAVING!*

*IT IS EXPRESSED BY OUR LIVING!*

**III. IT IS EXPRESSED BY OUR LOOKING!**

This is both a positive and negative aspect of our waiting!

***(Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;)***

*“Looking” = “to await with confidence or patience.”*

*Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

*“Watch” = “to keep awake or stay alert”*

**e.g. Mark 13:32-37; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8**

*Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*

*1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*

**IV. IT IS EXPRESSED BY OUR LEANING!**

This is another positive aspect of our waiting!

***(Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.)***

**A. We Lean On Him For Our Redemption!**

**B. We Lean On Him For Our Renewal!**

**C. We Lean On Him For Our Righteous Living!**

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*How Is This Patient Waiting Expressed?*

*By Our Leaving, Living, Looking, Leaning...*

**V. It Is Expressed By Loving or Longing!**

This is yet another positive aspect of our waiting!

Loving and longing both denotes a desirous and earnest expectation!

Listen, there can be no true waiting for that which we don't long for!  
*2 Timothy 4:7-8 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 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 unto all them also that love his appearing.*

**Conclusion**

**Understand This Patient Waiting Is The Duty Of All Saints!**

These admonitions we've looked at are not just for the preachers and teachers and Church leaders! They are for ALL the saints!

**Understand That Patience Is Not Always Easy!**

We sometimes do not wait patiently on the Lord because its not easy to do! But, just because it is not easy doesn't get us off the hook!

**Our Patience Must Be Directed Back Into Waiting For The Lord's Coming!**

Paul prayed that the Thessalonians might be helped by the LORD to do that!

*Romans 8:18-"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*

The best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is to live in the presence of Christ! Are you doing that? If not, why not begin tonight!