

(Titus 2:11-14, NIV84)

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Civil unrest/rebellion and COVID-19 are two common causes of death these days, or at least two common sources of fear and loathing of death these days. It's so easy to get caught up in the fear of death, but at times like this what a spirit-refreshing thing it is to be directed back to our Savior and reminded of "the blessed hope" that awaits us at Jesus' glorious appearing.

We truly have nothing to fear, because our Savior is with us. So, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart" (Hebrews 12:2-3).

Consoled with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

June 10

The Expectant Life

We . . . are citizens of heaven, and from heaven we expect our deliverer to come, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20 (NEB)

The great preacher G. Campbell Morgan once said:

"To me the second coming of Christ is the perpetual light on the path which makes the present bearable. I never lay my head on my pillow without thinking that, maybe, before the morning breaks, the final morning may have dawned. I never begin my work without thinking that perhaps He may interrupt my work and begin His own. Until He comes, I am not looking for death, I am looking for Him."

Looking for him! What a difference that makes in our outlook on life and in our attitude toward life's problems and perplexities. Of the early Christians we read that they spent every day in the expectation of Christ's

imminent return. He had promised: "I will come again", and his followers found daily strength and courage in that promise. We may be sure: That promise still stands!

His coming, either at the death of the world or at the death of his followers, cast a golden glow over all the road that lay ahead. They were walking toward the light of his return. And in that light all shadows fell behind them.

So, too, with us. All sorrows, all heartaches, all disappointments and bereavements lose their bitterness in the sweetness of the Christ's tender promise: "I will come again". He whose love brought him to Calvary's cross, there to open the doors of his Father's house, will come again to lead us across the threshold into the eternal mansions, prepared for all who love him.

What a wonderful prospect! As we approach our journey's end, our eyes are not upon death, but upon him who has promised to return-to take us to that land beyond the far horizon where we "shall obtain joy and gladness; and sorrow and sighing shall flee away".

Even so, COME, Lord Jesus! Amen.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)