

How patient are you? Are you able to let go of your timeline for things and allow everything to progress at its own pace? As an example, how many of you are ready to celebrate Christmas?

I remember as a kid that I could not wait for Christmas to come. In fact, it could not get here fast enough. I was talking with somebody this week about how we experience time, especially at this time of year. For kids, it seems as though Christmas took forever to arrive and that understanding seems to be pretty accurate with what I remember from my childhood.

But it isn't time to celebrate Christmas. We are still in Advent where we are waiting and watching for the coming of the Lord. Advent is usually split in half where we focus on the 2nd Coming during the 1st half and then we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus during the 2nd half of Advent.

And so even though we may be excited and ready to celebrate Christmas, we need to slow down a little bit and prepare for Christ's 2nd Coming. This waiting and preparing is exhausting because we are so ready for it to happen already. We trust and believe that a day is coming when Jesus the Christ will return for us but we are so tired of waiting. God's Kingdom is so much better than the world we live in because of all the brokenness that we face on a daily basis.

We want Jesus to return now so that there is no more suffering, pain or crying. Simon Peter makes a point that the Lord is not slow as we think of slow but rather is patient so that all may come to repentance and obtain salvation through Christ our Lord.

God is patient with us so that all may experience eternal life. Everybody here who confesses that Jesus is their savior will have that eternal life. God was patient enough with us so that we could live in that promise. So don't we also want God to be patient with the rest of the world so that more people could receive the promise?

We have no idea when God the Father is going to send the son back to judge the living and the dead. All we know is that one day, it will happen. Christ will come like a thief in the night and there will be some who are caught off guard. The whole intent of this delay is to give more people the opportunity to believe.

So until that time when Christ does finally come, Peter tells us to be patient. Christ will return when the time is right. There is nothing we can do to speed things up and so we might as well embrace that fact and trust that God will take care of everything.

So as we continue our journey here on earth, we are encouraged to be at peace and strive to be found without spot or blemish. In other words, we continue to live as God's disciples and ask for HIS strength and guidance in our lives while living in HIS forgiveness which is offered to all through Christ Jesus.

Advent is a time of waiting, patiently waiting for the coming of Christ Jesus. He already came once as a baby but he will come again in his glory and all of this will happen in God's time.