

Apostolic Advice

March 2010

Apostolic Expectancy

Paul taught and demonstrated **expectancy**, the act or state of remaining expectant. To be **expectant** is to live in a state of anticipation, particularly of something God has promised for our life. I can think of at least four areas where Paul wanted the new apostolic people on earth to remain expectant throughout their lifetimes. The first is found in Phil.1:20, "*According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body; whether it be by life, or by death*". This is awesome! Paul was in jail, contemplating his outcome and speaking with "*all boldness*" regarding how Christ would still be **lived out** in his present situation. His expectation was that Christ would be magnified one way or another, and it didn't really matter to Paul, he said, "*If I die I gain*", and if I remain "*you gain*". One way or another, Christ is Lord and will be magnified. We should maintain this same attitude of expectancy, that regardless of our circumstances and the outcomes, Christ will fulfill His purpose and be made known through us as long as we remain dedicated to Him.

Paul wanted the Christ followers to expect all of God's enemies to finally experience the defeat Calvary had worked on them. He stated that, "*Jesus sat down at the right hand of God; henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool*", Hebs.10:13. Paul was expecting **the Body of Christ**, empowered by Holy Spirit, to demonstrate Satan's defeat through the exercise of divine authority delegated to them from the Exalted Christ who rules from the Father's right hand. According to Psalm 110:1-3, the Lord will execute vengeance upon his enemies through the Church on Earth. "*The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou has the dew of thy youth*". Expect God to defeat His enemies through you!

A third area of expectation Paul maintained was that of **reward** when he would appear before his Lord upon completion of his life's assignment. "*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*". Paul's life was full of **expectancy**, he fully understood that his life was not being lived in vain, but that God had a purpose for him, which he had ascertained and engaged until the end of his

pilgrimage on earth. He exhorted that *"not to me only"* was this promise of reward made, *"but to all them which love his appearing"*. All those who are living to see the Lord return, or to go and be with Him, will find out what they are to be doing in the meantime, and do it with all their might in view of the Lord's reward for each one.

Lastly, Paul expected Jesus to return bodily to this Earth, and exhorted all Christians to live with that *"blessed hope"* as well. *"So Christ was offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation"*, Hebs.9:28. In the passage from 9:24-28, Paul tells of the ***three appearances of Christ***. His first appearance was to *"put away sin"*, He did this by the *"sacrifice of Himself"* on the tree. His second appearance was to be *"at the right hand of God"* where He appears on our behalf as High Priest. The third and final appearance will be at His return to earth to lead His Triumphant Bride in the last battle with evil on the planet. Then all nations shall look to Him as the One True God and Savior.

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