

Advent Anticipation

- ☆ Patient (vv.8,9)
- ☆ Realistic (vv.10-12)
- ☆ Trusting (vv.13,14)

In the name of Christ Jesus our Savior who has come and is coming again, dearly redeemed:

Maybe some of you remember. “Anticipation is the second studio album by American singer-songwriter Carly Simon, released in 1971. The title track and lead single, ‘Anticipation,’ became a smash top-twenty chart hit in the U.S.; it was later used as the soundtrack for several television commercials for Heinz ketchup starting in 1973.”¹ She’s still singing in those YouTube videos. But the ketchup problem has been solved. Someone finally designed an upside-down bottle. No more waiting. Just squeeze!

Have you noticed? Americans just don’t like to wait for anything. How do you feel when you’re two or three back in the line? “Get some help out here!” right? So for 6,000 years God the Creator has said that He is coming. *Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied about these people, saying, “Look, the Lord is going to come with tens of thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment against all of them and to convict every soul concerning all their ungodly deeds, which they did in an ungodly way, and concerning all the harsh words that ungodly sinners spoke against him.”* (Jude 14f EHV²) **“Do not be deceived. God is not mocked. To be sure, whatever a man sows, he will also reap.”** (Galatians 6:7) Think about it. Since God came the first Advent in the Person of His only begotten Son to suffer and die for all sin and to save the world, what could keep Jesus from coming again to judge the living and the dead as promised? God is faithful. God does not lie. **Advent Anticipation** is right side up.

☆ Patient (vv.8,9)

To help us be **Patient** in **Advent Anticipation** the dear Holy Spirit takes us by the hand to step back a bit and look at things through God’s eyes. Someone mentioned a “Rope Sermon” on the Internet with a clear illustration. A couple young men helped by stretching a rope across the front of church. One end represented Creation, the other the Last Day. Somewhere close to that final end I marked off about two inches to show the tiny time in which we live. This illustrates how God lives in the eternal present. You and I are barely one molecule in that 2” moment in earth’s little day, this time between eternities.

Doesn’t that help us realize something here? God is not having trouble telling time. He created time and made **“two great lights: the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night. He also made the stars.”** (Genesis 1:16f) But since God exists in the eternal present, **“Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.”**

Don’t miss this diamond in the muck of man’s complaints. The key criticism secular humanists like to level against God is all about His power and His love. Maybe you’ve asked too. *If God is all-powerful why doesn’t He end the suffering. If God is love, doesn’t He care enough?* You can answer your own live-in skeptic and anyone else who asks. God **“is patient with you. He does not want anyone to perish.”** He is giving everyone the best chance possible to repent before it’s too late. That’s what John the Baptist was preaching in the wilderness, crying out: **“Repent because the kingdom of heaven is near!”** (Matthew 3:3) Why so long? Because God is **Patient – Advent Anticipation.**

¹ Google: “Song: Anticipation” – YouTube videos 2009, 2014, 2015...

² Scriptures: EHV ~ *Evangelical Heritage Version* (<http://wartburgproject.org>) © 2019. NPH: 800-662-6022, Kindle, LOGOS.

☆ Realistic (vv.10-12)

The next three verses of Peter's second letter would be too terrifying to read if you were not already convinced of the opening verses. There's a reason why atheist environmentalists have to focus on thirty years from now when no one will remember how wild they were in their computer models. Using government grants, many of the same scientists predicted an ice age back in the '60's. They moved on to "global warming" until the earth started to cool again. Then they pivoted to "climate change."

*American poet Robert Frost mused about the end of the earth: "Some say the world will end in fire, some say in ice."*³ Dear friends in Christ, you don't need to run from the reality of what is actually coming according to the great Creator. Our Redeemer and Sanctifier inspired this: ***"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained the same kind of faith as ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."*** (1:1f) You can be totally **Realistic** in **Advent Anticipation**.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God?"

Already declared "Not guilty!" justified by God, you speed the coming of Christ by your prayers and your testimony. The life, death and resurrection of God's own Son is *for me, even for me!* Jesus ascended while blessing His little flock. Ruling all things from God's right hand, Jesus is still blessing to make all things work out for your eternal good. (Romans 8:28) Use things without being used by them. When all man's works burn up on the Last Day, your godly life of gratitude will shine. Let elements melt and heavens burn. You will be safe, watching above with the angels and Jesus. **Advent Anticipation...**

☆ Trusting (vv.13,14)

We trust because God proved He cannot lie. The promise to save us from our sins cost Jesus tremendous suffering to deliver us from the torments of hell. That super human torture chamber was designed for the devil and his demons, not for humans. But those who reject Jesus in unbelief can trust they will spend eternity without God when He gives them their wish of godless, hopeless eternity. ***"But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight."*** You have received the only **righteousness** that counts, the **righteousness** that comes from God, received by faith. Live up to that to please God and your neighbor.

Here between the eternities living in **Advent Anticipation**, sometimes God gives us a picture which even the best night camera cannot capture. A moonlight night of stars above and such brilliant frost in the grass that it seems a million tiny stars are glistening there too.

What is time between the eternities? My picture would not take of moonlight frost, three deer grazing, peaceful calm – technology too dim. Within an hour all was gone. God's gift of words can paint the scene: I saw a God-wrought sight one night, Moonlight stars that lit the frozen grass, Topped by Orion's champion belt amid the myriad lights...While across the way our winter wetlands, neighbor's shed, and blinking FM towers ...The dreary, dismal, gaudy land of man / Between the gorgeous...sparkling...spectacular work of God.

"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life...." (Php 2:14-16 NIV84) **Advent Anticipation.** Amen.

³ Jeske, M. A. (2002). *James, Peter, John, Jude* (p. 193). Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Pub. House.
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