

## UNTIL THEN

We live in a time when the signs point to Jesus Christ's imminent return. We don't know when it will be, nor do we know when we might reach Heaven through death. In light of this, we have two choices.

We can fear, taking things into our own hands, or we can remember that God has not forgotten us - that he has provided his salvation, his love, and his care.

God's Word reminds us that we lack nothing. (James 1:4) That's right. We lack nothing because our faith in God, when tested, will produce endurance in us. Remember that this faith is IN GOD. It is not some independent ability to grit our teeth, but it is firmly rooted in the person of God himself. This God said he would never leave us or forsake us.

Those who have faith in God will worship him because they see who he is. Even when the inevitable tests come, they will joyfully look past the problems.

My grandfather was someone who extravagantly worshiped God, even in the difficult times. His beautiful voice could often be heard singing, "But until then, my heart will go on singing. Until then, with joy I'll carry on. Until the day my eyes behold that city. Until the day God calls me home". He worshiped his Saviour no matter what he faced because his faith was in a God who is greater than anything and who is worthy of continual worship.

The writer to the Hebrews gave us an idea of what a lifestyle of worship looks like. "Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name." (Hebrews 13:15) We worship on the basis of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the once and for all sacrifice for sin that makes a way for us into the presence of Almighty God. We worship continually (not just for 20 minutes on a Sunday morning). Worship is not timed. We worship sacrificially and when it is inconvenient. Paul and Silas are examples of this (Acts 16:25) We worship verbally, not just with thoughts, so people can hear what is in our hearts.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His love and care does not change and the trials of life are only temporary. Some day we will have the incredible joy of being in his glorious presence, but "until then", let's build a lifestyle of worship.