

**Sunday, November 12, 2023**

***Amos 5:18-24***

(The coming of the anticipated Lord's Day means Judgment.)

***1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18***

(Those who die before the Return of the Lord will also share in the resurrection.)

**"What is it We are Waiting For?"**

- 1. We're not waiting for salvation or life in the Kingdom.** These have already been given to us. We walk by faith as best we can trust God and the Spirit. Let's take a moment to confirm our assent to God's work in us now.
- 2. What is the piece that is missing?**  
We affirm that this is God's good world by creation.  
We affirm the completed work of revelation and salvation in the cross (*John 19:30*) and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (*Romans 8:31-39*).  
We acknowledge that suffering and malice are in the world.  
God's judgment and the bringing of justice to the world are yet to come.  
Christians are to work in and toward justice, but we will not achieve a just and holy society by the efforts of the church. (*Ephesians 6:12*)  
There is an element of God's majesty and mystery that we cannot comprehend.  
The first Christians expected Christ's return and became anxious about those reaching the end of their earthly lives before Christ's return. (*1 Thess 4:15*)  
The fearsome Day of the Lord started with the Incarnation of Jesus Christ but is not complete until the Lord returns. Judgment will begin with the Household of God (*1 Peter 4:17*) and is not waiting for God to punish "those evildoers".  
Let's take a minute to affirm that we do have all the answers yet and do not yet have all that God has for us. (*1 Cor 2:9*)
- 3. We are waiting for the completion of God's Work on earth.**  
If you don't like what God is doing in your life now, today, you will not like what God is going to do in the End.  
*Amos 5: 18 "Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness and not light; as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear..."*  
We see in part, like a child, in a mirror darkly (*1 Cor 13:9-12*). Something is still missing in our human ability to comprehend or interpret God's work on earth.  
God is still active in completing the Day of the Lord on earth.  
Our Deaths, the Second Coming and the Final Judgment are yet ahead.  
We are still waiting for the completion of God's work on earth.  
We walk by faith. Neither pie in the sky nor heroic resignation to fate.

Best course of action? Receive, cooperate with God's severe work in our hearts today. Then we will be ready to receive the severe coming of the Lord with trust.