

LIVE WITH EAGER EXPECTATION

REV. MARK ANTHONY MAGANGAT

When will this pandemic end?

This is the lingering question we ask ourselves today. The truth is, no one really knows when things will get better. Until then, we hold on to the hope of regaining normalcy in our lives. This deep desire for a new future and a new normal drives us forward each day.

But in our anticipation of the future, it's essential that we not neglect the pain of the present. It is true that we live in challenging times. But we can take comfort in knowing that we anticipate what God could do in our lives in the coming days. Many of us have deep concerns about the future. We have longings and expectations; longing for love and acceptance; longing for friendship and for someone to understand; longing for a better quality of life; longing for peace and security. And the list goes on and on.

But, at the center of these longings, there is one particular longing that should anchor all these needs, and that is the longing for Jesus.

In Luke 2:21-35 we read about Simeon, a seasoned man of God who declared his faith and trust, and expected hope in God. Simeon was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel. He was waiting for the one who would

come to deliver Israel and be the savior of his people and of the world.

We read in Luke that it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

What stands out about Simeon is that he is described as a righteous and devout man, that he is a worshiper, he was Spirit-filled, as he waited for the coming of the Messiah. In other words, he lived his life with an eager expectation to behold the Messiah.

Simeon spells out for us the key posture in living with eager expectation: **Righteousness, Devotion, Hopefulness, and Spirit-led.**

The question now is, how can we apply these truths practically in our lives as we live with eager expectation and anticipation of the coming of Christ?

1. Live looking for Christ.

Live with the anticipation in view of His coming through the lens of Scripture and the signs of the times that are being unfolded in these last days. Live looking for Christ by spending time in His word, abiding in His word, and growing in His word.

2. Live Longing for Christ.

Live longing in anticipation of the second coming of Christ. If there is anything in your life right now that is not right with God, a bad attitude towards others, places that you should not be going to and things that you should not be doing, attitudes or actions that do not honor God, surrender everything to God so we can live our lives focused on Him.

Do what God has called you to do. Nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Be alert, be aware, be active.

3. Live Laboring for Christ.

Keep on keeping on. This attitude gives us the joy of purpose in life. So continue to serve Him. May your service to Him give meaning to your lives. May your hearts overflow with the hope that one day you will see Christ face to face.

The return of Christ can't be more important. He is coming for all. And He is coming. As Simeon would welcome Him, wait for Him, and look for Him, let us also welcome Him in like manner.

If you're a follower of Jesus Christ, the best day of your life is the day you see Jesus face to face. It was the best day of Simeon's life for sure and it will be the best day of every believer's life. ✱