

TRUE 7TH DAY ADVENTISTS ARE EAGERLY WATCHING AND WAITING

God's unwillingness to have His people perish has been the reason for so long delay. But the coming of the morning to the faithful, and of the night to the unfaithful, is right upon us. By ***waiting and watching***, God's people are to manifest their peculiar character, their separation from the world. By our ***watching position*** we are to show that we are truly strangers and pilgrims upon the earth. The difference between those who love the world and those who love Christ is so plain as to be unmistakable. While worldlings are all earnestness and ambition to secure earthly treasure, God's people are not conformed to the world, but show by their ***earnest, watching, waiting position*** that they are transformed; that their home is not in this world, but that they are seeking a better country, even a heavenly. {2T 193.3}

God designs that His people shall fix their eyes heavenward, ***looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ***. {2T 194.2}

The scoffers mock the waiting, watching ones, and inquire: "Where is the promise of His coming? You have been disappointed. Engage now with us, and you will prosper in worldly things. Get gain, get money, and be honored of the world." The waiting ones look upward and answer: "***We are watching***." And by turning from earthly pleasure and worldly fame, and from the deceitfulness of riches, they show themselves to be in that position. ***By watching they become strong***; they overcome sloth and selfishness and love of ease. Affliction's fire kindles upon them, and the waiting time seems long. They sometimes grieve, and faith falters; but they rally again, overcome their fears and doubts, and while their eyes are directed heavenward, say to their adversaries: "***I am watching, I am waiting the return of my Lord***. I will glory in tribulation, in affliction, in necessities." {2T 194.2}

The desire of our Lord is that we should be watching, so that when He cometh and knocketh we may open to Him immediately. ***A blessing is pronounced upon those servants whom He finds watching***. "He shall gird Himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them." Who among us in these last days will be thus specially honored by the Master of assemblies? Are we prepared without delay to open to Him immediately and welcome Him in? ***Watch, watch, watch***. Nearly all have ceased their watching and waiting; we are not ready to open to Him immediately. The love of the world has so occupied our thoughts that our eyes are not turned upward, but downward to the earth. We are hurrying about, engaging with zeal and earnestness in different enterprises, but God is forgotten, and the heavenly treasure is not valued. We are not in a waiting, watching position. The love of the world and the deceitfulness of riches eclipse our faith, and ***we do not long for, and love, the appearing of our Saviour***. {2T 195,196}

There is the greater necessity of ***unceasing watchfulness***, for now the moments are fewer than before the passing of the first watch. Now the period of waiting is necessarily shorter than at first. If we watched with unabated vigilance then, how much more need of double watchfulness in the second watch. The passing of the second watch has brought us to the third, and now it is inexcusable to abate our watchfulness. ***The third watch calls for threefold earnestness***. To become impatient now would be to lose all our earnest, persevering watching heretofore. {2T 193,194}