

In search of...

Truth & Right

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Anticipate What?

"Anticipation" is defined as "a feeling of excitement about something that is going to happen." Depending on the circumstances, as well as the attitude of the person going through them, this can mean pleasure or anxiety. Sometimes it means both at the same time, which is an altogether strange feeling, but one that many of us are familiar with. For myself, and Jessica, we are currently anticipating the birth of our first child, and it is a thrilling time. Of course, many of you reading this have already been there in your lives and gone through it all. We are nervous and excited and so pleased, as well as so thankful to just have been given the blessing to be parents. A child means joy and labor, according to the Bible.

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is

the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate." (Psa. 127:3-5)

The other side of anticipation (anxiety) is seen in that having children is a huge responsibility, one that should not be taken lightly. "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4) So how does someone anticipate all that new responsibility to take care, completely, of another human being? Most of the time, expectant fathers and mothers dive into books and classes to try to prepare as best they can. But even then, all they can do is think about what is ahead, and hope for the best. At the end of the day, though, all who are expecting a child are in great anticipation (whether good or bad) because they know that, without a doubt, their lives will never be the

same again.

Taking all of that into consideration made me stop to think about what other things people anticipate in their lives, and about what things we all should be anticipating, spiritually speaking. Many of us, I am sure, are looking forward to winter coming to an end and warmer weather finally returning. I love winter, and I love snow, but even for me after a while it gets old. I miss being outside in the warm sunshine. We anticipate it because we know it is coming (sometime), remembering God's promise:

"And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, 'I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.'" (Gen. 8:21-22)

Members of this local congregation should be looking forward to springtime for another reason as well: we have a gospel meeting scheduled for this spring! A speaker is coming in and will be with us for a whole week, delivering lessons from God's Word. Considering that this is something we do only a couple times out of the entire year, we should be excited! This is a chance to invite friends, coworkers, and others from the

community as well as brothers & sisters from other congregations to join us in worshiping the Lord and studying the Bible.

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Heb. 10:24-25)

The thing we should be anticipating more than anything else is Judgment Day. Why anticipate it? Well, for one, we know that it cannot be avoided and that we must all stand before His judgment seat.

"So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil." (2 Cor. 5:6-10)

In that passage, the term that causes anxiety (and as such people do not like or want to talk about it) is judgment. The idea of answering for what we have done in this life is terrifying because we are all fully aware that we are imperfect, do things we ought not to, and are afraid of facing the consequences. Is it any wonder

that the song that we sing, "There's A Great Day Coming," has a verse that says there's a sad day coming? But further reading of the Bible gives us reason to not despair. Look at those verses from 2 Corinthians again. A main thought there is being at home with the Lord. So you see, the last day is not all doom and gloom, if one is right with God.

"Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed." (Rom. 13:11)

That is exactly how Christians should be thinking about this life coming to an end and the next, eternity, beginning. Not sad to leave our material possessions behind, not fearful over what comes next, but rejoicing because we know that at that moment, our salvation will be realized. As some of our songs state, our faith will then be sight.

Are you anticipating the return of Jesus? What about dying? We mourn when a loved one passes away, because they are no longer with us, but do we think about seeing them again? We should! Be excited about the Son of God coming, at the sound of the trumpet, and everyone being changed in the twinkling of an eye! Anticipate His return, and be ready to stand before Him, wanting to hear "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Jarred Currence

Happy Moments,
Praise God.

Difficult Moments,
Seek God.

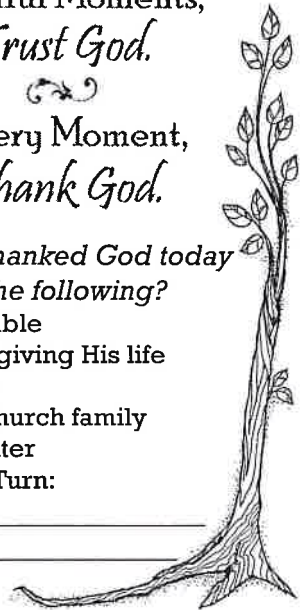
Quiet Moments,
Worship God.

Painful Moments,
Trust God.


Every Moment,
Thank God.

*Have you thanked God today
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life
for us
- Our church family
- Laughter
- Your Turn:



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BIBLE Trivia!

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. **Who told the Jews that the scriptures had testified about him?**

- a) Philip
- b) Jesus
- c) Isaiah
- d) Pilate

2. **In what epistle does Paul refer to Satan as "the god of this world?"**

- a) Jude
- b) I Timothy
- c) II Corinthians
- d) I Corinthians

3. **Who sent spies to see if Saul had followed him?**

- a) Abner
- b) Titus
- c) Jesus
- d) David

4. **To what king of Judah did the Philistines bring tribute?**

- a) Josiah
- b) Jehoshaphat
- c) Rehoboam
- d) Herod

5. **What leaper of Bethany entertained Jesus in his home?**

- a) Simon
- b) Zaccheus
- c) Lazarus
- d) Naaman

6. **What evil woman lived in the Valley of Sorek?**

- a) Sapphira
- b) Delilah
- c) Jezebel
- d) Athaliah

7. **What criminal did the people of Jerusalem cry out for in a loud voice?**

- a) Ahab
- b) Stephen
- c) Judas
- d) Barabbas

8. **Who made a little coat for her son every year when she went to offer the annual sacrifice?**

- a) Ruth
- b) Rachel
- c) Hannah
- d) Naomi

9. **What miraculous food resembled coriander seed?**

- a) Manna
- b) Lentil stew
- c) Unleavened bread
- d) Porridge

10. **What apostle's mother-in-law had a fever?**

- a) Paul's
- b) Bartholomew's
- c) Peter's
- d) Thaddeus's

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS & VERSES:

- 1) B, Reference: 2 Kings 21:6
- 2) D, Reference: Matthew 26:75
- 3) C, Reference: Genesis 8:7
- 4) C, Reference: Job 1:5
- 5) A, Reference: Matthew 26:65

- 6) D, Reference: Acts 1:23-26
- 7) B, Reference: John 20:16
- 8) A, Reference: Jeremiah 20:3
- 9) C, Reference: Joshua 7:21
- 10) A, Reference: Acts 9:36-41