

“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.” 1 Thessalonians 1:3 KJV

Patient hope is built on certainty! I knew Dad would always come home and even though the hours were an eternity to me, I never wavered in my anticipation of his presence, because he always kept his promises and I knew he loved us! I would pester Mom with, “What time is it, now?” all afternoon. I would go to the end of the driveway and watch down the street. Many days I would watch his car turn onto the clamshell paved street and all the hours of anxious waiting would vanish into the moments of his approach! Now, I await the return of my Heavenly Father and while the days of waiting seem endless, I know He will come *“as He said,”* because I know He loves me! While the wait may seem an eternity, it is but a moment to my eternal Sovereign! His “Quickly” is not my “quickly.” He will come at exactly the right time and when I see Him, “One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrows



will erase!” Anxiety and trouble will vanish in the light of His glorious countenance! As we pay close attention to God’s Word, we recognize the signs of His coming. Like the dust cloud that accompanied Dad’s car on the approach to our street, there is no mistaking Christ’s approach for those who know His Word and promises! We are instructed to *“watch and wait!”* God’s Word brims with that for which we are to watch. *“Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in [different] places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. – So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.”* It’s not coming down the street, in the driveway, or on the porch, it’s *“at the doors!”* Paul warned, *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”* The signs of Christ’s return engulf us. Are you patiently hoping? I see the dust cloud of His approach!

My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus’ Blood and Righteousness,
I dare not Trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name! *–Edward Mote, 1834*

It is quite evident to me that our churches are full of *“a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof.”* They are full of *“lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God!”* Many have *“left their first love and the love of many [has] waxed cold!”* If you can’t see prophecy unfolding, you are either blind or you are not watching!

“Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” Matthew 24:40-42 KJV