

Box 28

**WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR ?**

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Are you waiting for anything before you become a decided Christian? Many, I am sorry to say, are waiting. *Are you one?*

Are you waiting *till you are sick and unwell?* Surely you will not tell me that is a convenient season. When your body is racked with pain—when your mind is distracted with all kinds of anxious thoughts—when calm reflection is almost impossible—is this a time for beginning the mighty work of acquaintance with God? Do not talk so.

Are you waiting *till you are old?* Surely you have not considered what you say. You will serve Christ when your members are worn out and decayed, and your hands unfit to work; you will go to Him when your mind is weak, and your memory failing; you will give up the world when you cannot keep it; you will set your affections on things above when you find nothing to set them on in things below. Is this your plan? Beware, lest you insult God.

Are you waiting *till you have leisure?* And when do you expect to have more time than you have now? Every year you live seems shorter than the last: you find more to think of or to do, and less power and opportunity to do it.

And, after all, you know not whether you may live to see another year. Boast not yourself of to-morrow—now is the time.

Are you waiting *till your heart is perfectly fit and ready?* That will never be. It will always be corrupt and sinful—a bubbling fountain full of evil. You will never make it like a pure white sheet of paper, that you can take to Jesus, and say, "Here I am, Lord, ready to have Thy law written on my heart". Delay not. Better begin as you are.

Are you waiting *till the devil will let you come to Christ without trouble?* That will never be. Satan never gives up a single soul without a struggle. If you would be saved, you must fight for it. Stand not another day. Arise, and go forward at once.

Are you waiting *till there is no cross to be borne?* That will never be. So long as sin is our enemy, and our own bodies weak and clogged by it, so long we must endure hardness, if we would be good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Go in the strength of the Lord God, and you shall overcome. If there is no cross, there will be no crown.

Are you waiting *till all around you become decided?* That will never be. Heaven only is the

place where all are saints. Earth is the place where sin reigns, and God's people are a little flock. You must be content to journey alone, and swim against the stream: "Narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Tarry not for friends and neighbours: see that you are among the few.

Are you waiting *till the gate is wide?* That will never be. It will not alter—it is not elastic—it will not stretch. It is wide enough for the chief of sinners, if he comes in a humble and self-abased spirit; but if there is anything you are resolved not to give up, you will never, with all your struggling, get in. Lay aside every weight: enter before the door is shut for ever.

Are you waiting *because some few Christians are inconsistent, and some professors fall away?* Their folly is no excuse for you: their sin will not justify your delay. Hear the word of the Lord Jesus: "What is that to thee? follow thou Me".

O lingering reader! are not your excuses broken reeds? Are not your reasonings and defences unprofitable and vain? Be honest: confess the truth. *You have no good reason for waiting.*

Turn not away from good advice. This day I charge you throw away indecision: wait no longer—become decided for Christ. J. C. R.