



THE PAUSE IN HEAVEN

May 31, 2020

In the final message in the Pause series, Pastor Gary Webber explores the meaning of the 30 minutes of silence John witnessed in Revelation and how that short pause reminds us that God is patiently waiting for us.

Passage (READ):

Revelation 7:9-17 and 8:1

Principle (KNOW):

God pauses to _____ us (*Revelation 7:13-15*)

God doesn't necessarily protect us FROM trials, but He always protects us THROUGH them.

God pauses to _____ for us (*Revelation 7:16-17*)

The timing of God's provision may be more important than the provision itself.

God pauses because He is _____ with us (*Revelation 8:1*)

The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

- 2 Peter 3:9-10

Practice (DO):

Take time to prayerfully consider how God may be waiting on you. Make a list of how God is protecting, providing, and demonstrating patience toward you. Thank Him through word and deed.

SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR "PAUSE":

***Revelation for Everyone*, Tom Wright**

***The Last Days According to Jesus*, R.C. Sproul**

***The Vision of His Glory*, Anne Graham Lotz**

***Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, Peter Scazzero**

***Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Day by Day*, Peter Scazzero**

Check out these resources from RightNow Media:

The Last Days According to Jesus, R.C. Sproul

TEXT

Text the word UPDATE to 904-441-8650 to stay up to date on what's going on at Southside.

GIVE

You can give online through ssbc.org, directly through your financial institution, or through the mail. Call the church office if you need more information.

WATCH US LIVE

Join us in the Maguire Fellowship Center on

- Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

We are "on demand" on Facebook, YouTube, or ssbc.org

Dial-A-Sermon is a new resource we've made available. Just call 904-447-3021.

If you would like a CD of Sunday's message, please call the church office to request one.

CONTACT

 904-396-6633

 info@ssbc.org

 1435 Atlantic Blvd.,
Jacksonville, FL 32207

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (WEEK OF MAY 27 - JUNE 2, 2020)

HANGOUT (Warming up to the topic)

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. When you think of "judgment day," what comes to mind? Christians tend to make one of two mistakes related to the idea of a final judgment; they either ignore it completely or obsess over it. Why are both reactions a mistake?
3. What does the fact that Jesus waits an extra 30 minutes prior to the final judgment (Revelation 8:1) tell you about Him?

HEAR (Listening to God through scripture)

4. Read Matthew 24:3-14
 - What was Jesus' first response to His disciples' question about the timing of the end of the age? Why was this His *first* response and what might that tell us?
 - What does Jesus describe as "birth pains" (verse 6-8) and what does His use of this analogy tell us?
 - Why will "the love of many grow cold" (verse 12)?
 - Read Revelation 2:2-4. Jesus tells an entire church that they lost their first love. How might this relate to what He said in Matthew 24:12?
 - How do you understand verse 13?
 - There have been continual wars since Jesus' life. Millions of Christians have been persecuted throughout the centuries. There have been and are currently false prophets. If all of these things have remained consistent, is there anything Jesus said that might help us know the timing of His return?
5. Read Matthew 24:36-51.
 - Why is the specific day and hour of Jesus' return something no one know?
 - Jesus gives several analogies for His sudden and unexpected return. What is His point?
 - This passage is one of a few sometimes used to justify a belief in the rapture (the idea that Christians will be taken to heaven prior to a great tribulation). Read Matthew 24:40-42 again. What in this text justifies the belief that the person "taken" is a believer and the person "left behind" is not?
 - Read Matthew 24:48-51. Which servant is cast out and which is left behind? How does this relate to verses 40-42?
 - Verses 45-46 describes a faithful and wise servant. What sets this servant apart? How can we be like that servant?
 - How might verse 13 and Jesus' reference to Noah also be used to refute the idea of the rapture?
 - How might belief in the rapture be dangerous?
 - What difference does any of this make for us today?

HUDDLE (Making it personal and praying together - in huddles)

6. If you could know (which you cannot) that Jesus was coming back tonight, how would you feel? Why? What would you do between now and then? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.

DAILY READING:

Day 1: Revelation 4-5

Day 4: Revelation 8

Day 6: Matthew 13

Day 2: Revelation 6

Day 5: Matthew 6

Day 7: Matthew 24

Day 3: Revelation 7