

While We Wait For Heaven: The “Right Now!” & The “Not Yet.”

Right Now! by: Henry Morris www.icr.org

“Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”

(Peter 2:10)

There are many wonderful things awaiting us in heaven if we have trusted Christ for our salvation. “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

But there are also many wonderful gifts and privileges we have right now. In the first place, we already have **eternal salvation.** “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). That means also that we are free from any condemnation at the judgment. “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

We have already been justified—that is, declared righteous with the **righteousness of Christ** Himself. “Being now justified by His **blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Romans 5:9). “But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested...Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ” (Romans 3:21-22). As our text says: we right “now have obtained mercy” and **right now** are “the people of God” (1 Peter 2:10).

The apostle John confirms this glorious truth in a beautiful passage. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him” (1 John 3:2).

Finally, we have the wonderful assurance that **our Lord Jesus right now is praying for us.** For Christ is entered into heaven itself, “now to appear in the presence of God for us” (Hebrews 9:24) and there He “ever liveth to make intercession” (Hebrews 7:25) **for all those who have placed their faith in Him as their Savior and Lord.** HMM

Not Yet. by: Henry Morris, Ph.D.

“These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as He taught in the temple:
and no man laid hands on Him: for His hour was **not yet** come.”

(John 8:20)

This is the last of seven times in the gospel of John that the phrase “**not yet**” is used in reference to the forthcoming death of Christ. Although this was the very reason He came into the world, the event itself could not be hurried.

When His mother wanted Him to provide wine for the wedding, He said, “Mine hour is **not yet** come” (John 2:4). When His brothers urged Him to show His mighty works in Jerusalem, His answer was, “My time is **not yet** come” (John 7:6, 8). When His enemies tried to take Him at the feast of tabernacles, “no man laid hands on Him, because His hour was **not yet** come” (John 7:30). Even when He preached His great promise of living water, John noted parenthetically that “the Holy Ghost was **not yet** given; because that Jesus was **not yet** glorified” (John 7:39).

But His hour did come, and they did lay hands on Him, and put Him to death. Then He was glorified, and the Holy Spirit was given. And now we await another great time that has not yet come. John speaks of this also: “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth **not yet** appear what we shall be: but...we shall be like Him” (1 John 3:2).

In that great time to come, all things will be made subject to Christ. “But now we see **not yet** all things put under Him” (Hebrews 2:8). These great promises and others associated with them have not yet been accomplished—the world is far from being in subjection to Him, and we are far from being like Him. **But the hour will come,** just as the first one did, **and it will be glorious.** For “eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). HMM

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