

a practical way it means that we live in hope...we are not just daydreamers who fancy some great event, but are participants in the events of the Lord's life. We live in the hope of what He will do and when He will come and we witness to the truth of what He has done and what His salvation means to those who put their trust in Him. Hope is the confident assurance that what is promised will be fulfilled and witness is the demonstration of faith when we tell others of the grace of God. And this life combines these factors in wonderful ways so that we might enjoy the Lord and serve Him all at the same time!

II. Discussion:

A. We have confidence in the Lord's program.

This arises in the questioning of the company in Acts 1:6-8. We cannot blame them for asking if this was the time and we notice the Lord did not rebuke them for asking but simply said that the times and seasons are in the hand of the Father and all will be done well in His time. When we read in Galatians 4 how the Lord came in the fullness of time, we are given every reason to believe that God is the master of time and that Christ will come again at the right time as He did in the first advent. WE need to read the Gospel accounts and see how God's program has triumphed and then, in a spirit of honest optimism we can live with the assurance of hope that God will do what He has said He will do.

B. We witness to the Lord's Person

We do not tell how good we are or how much better we are than others in the world about us. We do not preach ourselves and are at best, witnesses for Him. We do not have a product to sell or an issue to be settled: we have a message of salvation and peace with God granted to those who call on Him and receive the gift He gives. I don't think it wrong to talk about our fellowships and social orders, etc. but nothing must take the place of the Lord in our witnessing work. We point people to the Savior and that is where there hope will originate even as ours has.

C. We trust in His coming