

Day Six • Saturday, May 9

Now and Not Yet

1 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Tomorrow is the Lord's Day. Tomorrow you will gather with the saints in Denison or in Dow City and you will hear the Word, confess your sins, receive absolution, and — God willing — kneel at the rail. So today, on the Saturday before, it is good to remember where all of this is heading.

Peter has been holding two things together all week, and we should hold them together too: intimacy and eternity. The God who feeds you with the closeness of a nursing mother is also the God who has prepared for you an inheritance that cannot perish, cannot be defiled, and will never fade. The same hand that holds you today will hold you on the last day. The kingdom is now — really, truly here, where the Word is preached and the Supper is given. And the kingdom is not yet — still coming, still ahead of us, fuller than we can imagine.

We live, as the theologians say, in the “now and not yet.” That is not a bad place to live. The infant in Peter's picture has already been fed and is still hungry — and that is exactly right. We have already tasted, and we are still longing. We have already been saved, and we are still being saved, and we will yet be saved on the last day. None of these is in conflict. They are the rhythm of a life that is carried by grace from beginning to end.

So come to church tomorrow as the infant Peter described. Come hungry. Come honest. Come without anything in your hands. The Father of mercies is setting the table again. He will feed you with His own Son. And one day — sooner than the tombstones suggest — He will sit you down at the marriage feast of the Lamb, where the milk of His Word becomes the wine of His glory, and the longing is finally answered face to face.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean for you, practically, that the Christian life is lived in the “now and not yet”?
2. Looking back over this week, what is one thing the Lord has used these devotions to teach you?
3. What would it look like to come to worship tomorrow as a hungry infant rather than a busy adult?

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, prepare my heart for the Lord's Day. Make me hungry for Your Word and thirsty for Your Table. Carry me through this “now” until I rest in Your “not yet,” where every longing is filled in You. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Family Action Item

Tonight, lay out your Sunday clothes, your offering, and your Bible together as a family. As you do, talk about what you are hoping God will feed you with tomorrow. Pray for your pastor, for those who will be in the pew next to you, and for anyone who is missing. Then go to bed early — Sunday is coming, and the table is being set.