

The preceding article encouraged progressive Bible students to accept Jesus' invitation to become fishers of men. This article will discuss three ways that all publishers, both new and experienced, can strengthen their resolve to continue in the Kingdom-preaching work until Jehovah says it is finished.

EXPRESSION EXPLAINED: In this article, the expression “do not let your hand rest” means that we need to be resolved to keep preaching the good news until Jehovah says that the work is finished.

“The Lord’s day” began when Jesus was enthroned as King in 1914 and runs to the end of his Thousand Year Reign.

(Ecclesiastes 11:6) Sow your seed in the morning and do not let your hand rest until the evening; for you do not know which will have success, whether this one or that one, or whether they will both do well.

Paragraph 2

(Matthew 24:14) And this good news of the Kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

(Matthew 24:36) “Concerning that day and hour nobody knows, neither the angels of the heavens nor the Son, but only the Father.

(Ecclesiastes 11:6) Sow your seed in the morning and do not let your hand rest until the evening; for you do not know which will have success, whether this one or that one, or whether they will both do well.

Paragraph 3

(Matthew 4:19) And he said to them: “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Paragraph 4

(Matthew 24:42) Keep on the watch, therefore, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

(Matthew 24:37-39) For just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be. 38 For as they were in those days before the Flood, eating and drinking, men marrying and women being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, 39 and they took no note until the Flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be.

(2 Peter 2:5) And he did not refrain from punishing an ancient world, but kept Noah, a preacher of righteousness, safe with seven others when he brought a flood upon a world of ungodly people.

Paragraph 5

(John 14:12) Most truly I say to you, whoever exercises faith in me will also do the works that I do; and he will do works greater than these, because I am going my way to the Father.

(John 21:15-17) When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter: “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He replied to him: “Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you.” He said to him: “Feed my lambs.” 16 Again he said to him a second time: “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He replied: “Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you.” He said to him: “Shepherd my little sheep.” 17 He said to him a third time: “Simon son of John, do you have affection for me?” Peter became grieved that he asked him the third time: “Do you have affection for me?” So he said to him: “Lord, you are aware of all things; you know that I have affection for you.” Jesus said to him: “Feed my little sheep.

(Acts 1:6-8) So when they had assembled, they asked him: "Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?" 7 He said to them: "It does not belong to you to know the times or seasons that the Father has placed in his own jurisdiction. 8 But you will receive power when the holy spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses of me in Jerusalem, in all Ju-de'a and Sa-mar'i-a, and to the most distant part of the earth."

(Revelation 1:10) By inspiration I came to be in the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a strong voice like that of a trumpet,

(Revelation 14:6) And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, and he had everlasting good news to declare to those who dwell on the earth, to every nation and tribe and tongue and people.

Paragraph 6

(Matthew 24:45-47) "Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Happy is that slave if his master on coming finds him doing so! 47 Truly I say to you, he will appoint him over all his belongings.

Paragraph 7

(John 18:37) So Pilate said to him: "Well, then, are you a king?" Jesus answered: "You yourself are saying that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is on the side of the truth listens to my voice."

(Matthew 4:8, 9) Again the Devil took him along to an unusually high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to him: "All these things I will give you if you fall down and do an act of worship to me."

(John 6:15) Then Jesus, knowing that they were about to come and seize him to make him king, withdrew again to the mountain all alone.

(Luke 9:58) But Jesus said to him: "Foxes have dens and birds of heaven have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay down his head."

(John 8:59) So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid and went out of the temple.

(Hebrews 12:3) Indeed, consider closely the one who has endured such hostile speech from sinners against their own interests, so that you may not get tired and give up.

Paragraph 8

(Habakkuk 1:2) How long, O Jehovah, must I cry for help, but you do not hear? How long must I ask for help from violence, but you do not intervene?

(Luke 19:11) While they were listening to these things, he told another illustration, because he was near Jerusalem and they thought that the Kingdom of God was going to appear instantly.

(2 Peter 3:13) But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell.

Paragraph 9

(2 Peter 2:5) And he did not refrain from punishing an ancient world, but kept Noah, a preacher of righteousness, safe with seven others when he brought a flood upon a world of ungodly people.

(1 Peter 3:20) who had formerly been disobedient when God was patiently waiting in Noah's day, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water.

(Genesis 18:20-33) Then Jehovah said: “The outcry against Sod’om and Go-mor’rah is indeed great, and their sin is very heavy. 21 I will go down to see whether they are acting according to the outcry that has reached me. And if not, I can get to know it.” 22 Then the men left from there and went toward Sod’om, but Jehovah remained with Abraham. 23 Then Abraham approached and said: “Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 Suppose there are 50 righteous men within the city. Will you, then, sweep them away and not pardon the place for the sake of the 50 righteous who are inside it? 25 It is unthinkable that you would act in this manner by putting the righteous man to death with the wicked one so that the outcome for the righteous man and the wicked is the same! It is unthinkable of you. Will the Judge of all the earth not do what is right?” 26 Then Jehovah said: “If I find in Sod’om 50 righteous men in the city, I will pardon the whole place for their sake.” 27 But Abraham again responded: “Please, here I have presumed to speak to Jehovah, whereas I am dust and ashes. 28 Suppose the 50 righteous should lack five. Because of the five will you destroy the whole city?” To this he said: “I will not destroy it if I find there 45.” 29 But yet again he spoke to him and said: “Suppose 40 are found there.” He answered: “I will not do it for the sake of the 40.” 30 But he continued: “Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me go on speaking: Suppose only 30 are found there.” He answered: “I will not do it if I find 30 there.” 31 But he continued: “Please, here I have presumed to speak to Jehovah: Suppose only 20 are found there.” He answered: “I will not destroy it for the sake of the 20.” 32 Finally he said: “Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me speak just once more: Suppose only ten are found there.” He answered: “I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.” 33 When Jehovah finished speaking to Abraham, he went his way and Abraham returned to his place.

(Nehemiah 9:30, 31) You extended patience to them for many years and kept warning them by your spirit through your prophets, but they refused to listen. Finally you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. 31 And in your great mercy, you did not exterminate them or abandon them, for you are a compassionate and merciful God.

(2 Peter 3:9) Jehovah is not slow concerning his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire anyone to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.

(John 6:44) No man can come to me unless the Father, who sent me, draws him, and I will resurrect him on the last day.

(1 Timothy 2:3, 4) This is fine and acceptable in the sight of our Savior, God, 4 whose will is that all sorts of people should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth.

Paragraph 10

(James 5:7, 8) Be patient then, brothers, until the presence of the Lord. Look! The farmer keeps waiting for the precious fruit of the earth, exercising patience over it until the early rain and the late rain arrive. 8 You too exercise patience; make your hearts firm, because the presence of the Lord has drawn close.

(Mark 4:28) On its own the ground bears fruit gradually, first the stalk, then the head, finally the full grain in the head.

Paragraph 11

(John 14:9) Jesus said to him: “Even after I have been with you men for such a long time, Philip, have you not come to know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father also. How is it you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

(1 Corinthians 3:6) I planted, A·pol'los watered, but God kept making it grow,

Paragraph 12

(Ecclesiastes 3:1) There is an appointed time for everything, A time for every activity under the heavens:

(Ecclesiastes 3:7) A time to rip apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak;

(1 Peter 3:1, 2) In the same way, you wives, be in subjection to your husbands, so that if any are not obedient to the word, they may be won without a word through the conduct of their wives, 2 because of having been eyewitnesses of your chaste conduct together with deep respect.

Paragraph 13

(Habakkuk 2:1) At my guardpost I will keep standing, And I will station myself on the rampart. I will keep watch to see what he will speak by means of me And what I will reply when I am reproved.

(Acts 20:24) Nevertheless, I do not consider my own life of any importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear thorough witness to the good news of the undeserved kindness of God.

Paragraph 14

(Hebrews 6:10-12) For God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name by ministering and continuing to minister to the holy ones. 11 But we desire each one of you to show the same industriousness so as to have the full assurance of the hope down to the end, 12 so that you may not become sluggish, but be imitators of those

who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Paragraph 15

(Psalm 119:42) Then I will reply to the one taunting me, For I put my trust in your word.

(Isaiah 40:8) The green grass dries up, The blossom withers, But the word of our God endures forever."

Paragraph 16

(John 14:1) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Exercise faith in God; exercise faith also in me.

(Psalm 46:1-3) God is our refuge and strength, A help that is readily found in times of distress. 2 That is why we will not fear, though the earth undergoes change, Though the mountains topple into the depths of the sea, 3 Though its waters roar and foam over, Though the mountains rock on account of its turbulence. (Selah)

(Matthew 28:18-20) Jesus approached and spoke to them, saying: "All authority has been given me in heaven and on the earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

Paragraph 17

(Ecclesiastes 11:6) Sow your seed in the morning and do not let your hand rest until the evening; for you do not know which will have success, whether this one or that one, or whether they will both do well.

Paragraph 18

(Genesis 6:3) Then Jehovah said: “My spirit will not tolerate man indefinitely, because he is only flesh. Accordingly, his days will amount to 120 years.”

(Genesis 7:1, 2) After that Jehovah said to Noah: “Go into the ark, you and all your household, because you are the one I have found to be righteous before me among this generation. 2 You must take with you every kind of clean animal by sevens, the male and its mate; and of every animal that is not clean just two, the male and its mate;

(Genesis 7:16) So they went in, male and female of every sort of flesh, just as God had commanded him. After that Jehovah shut the door behind him.