

Our Blessed Hope: A Study of Biblical Eschatology

Lesson 12: Why Your Eschatology Matters

Our Biblical **Non-negotiables**:

- *Jesus will return visibly and bodily,*
- *The dead will be raised and judged*
- *Those whose names are found in the Lamb's book of life will enter into the eternal glory of the new heavens and the new earth*
- *Those whose names are not found in this book will be condemned to an eternal judgment excluded from this new creation*
- *Satan will be judged and condemned and death itself will be destroyed*
- *Jesus will triumph over all his enemies, and will at last hand the kingdom over to his Father, with the result that all wickedness and evil will be eliminated and God will be "all in all."*
- *We will enjoy perfect peace, joy and love forever with God in the New Heaven/New Earth.*

Biblical eschatology doesn't just affect the way we _____ the _____. It affects the way we _____ in the _____.

"When we meet Christ face to face, we're going to look back on this life and see that things we thought were important here were like the discarded toys of our childhood. What a way to live! With optimism, with anticipation, with excitement. We should be living like persons who don't expect to be around much longer."

– Hal Lindsey, *The Late Great Planet Earth*

"Should we brace ourselves for the worst and, as Hal Lindsey urged us almost a half century ago, "live like people who don't expect to be around much longer"? Or may we look to the future as lying before a conquering Church, which has already endured the great tribulation and now seeks victory in the world over the long haul?"

– Kenneth Gentry, *Navigating the Book of Revelation*

Some **big questions**:

Where is history headed?

How should Christians live on this side of heaven?

How do we train and prepare the next generation?

What do we train and prepare them for?

Should our outlook be primarily pessimistic or optimistic?

Why Our Eschatology Matters:

Reason 1: All of _____ is Eschatological

Reason 2: Eschatology reflects the overall _____/_____ of the Christian life.

Reason 3: Eschatology drives how we _____.

Reason 4: Eschatology provides the context and motivation for _____.

Reason 5: Eschatology is critical to the _____.

Reason 6: Eschatology enhances our _____.

Reason 7: Eschatology motivates our _____.

Why I consider myself an “*Optimistic Amillennialist*” ...

- 1) Jesus WON and He rules _____.
- 2) His rule will be _____ upon His Return (not before)
- 3) We are _____. (Already and not yet)
- 4) We will see the growth of the Kingdom from _____ to _____.
- 5) We are called to _____ culture confidently.
- 6) We must eagerly _____ while we faithfully ENDURE.
- 7) Suffering IDENTIFIES us as Christians. We must _____ it and be _____ for it.
- 8) We will experience the _____ of God’s blessings in the world to come where will we _____.