

GETTING READY FOR
THE END
OF THE WORLD

Part 1: Eschatology 101

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My Yearly Preaching Checklist

Jesus was...

Jesus came...

Jesus lived...

Jesus died...

Jesus rose...

Jesus left....

Jesus is coming again.

Eschatology:

The branch of theology or *biblical exegesis* concerned with the end of the world

Revelation 1:1-3

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

My Personal Declaration

Eschatology without Jesus is
information without transformation.

Four Common Approaches to Eschatology

1) Fear – we are all doomed!

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. – 1 John 4:18

2) Superiority – I know something you don't know!

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. – Philippians 2:3-4

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." – James 4:6

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3) Denial – It's not real, we're good!

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. – John 14:1-3

4) Abdication and isolation – I'm out of here!

"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns." – Matthew 24:45-46

A Healthy Approach to Eschatology: Loving urgency

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. – Ephesians 1:13-14

Next Steps

Actually read the book of Revelation. It can be a confusing book, but look for what Revelation reveals about Jesus. What is his heart? What is his character? What does he want his bride (The Church) to be like?

Stay engaged with loving urgency by serving our community at Trunk-or-Treat or in Guest Services. There are many easy roles to serve in, all contributing to a massive opportunity to welcome the community and break down obstacles to faith. See the green insert in today's program and respond today.

Small Group Questions



- 1) Do you believe "the end" is near?
- 2) What was your personal response to the "May 21st is the end of the world" controversy? Did you change anything about your life because of the public nature of the debate?
- 3) What are the primary sources that have shaped your view of the end times?
 - a. News media
 - b. "Left Behind" books
 - c. Bible (which books?)
 - d. Church
 - e. Personal opinion
- 4) Read Matthew 24:1-42. What are the signs Jesus said to watch out for as indicators of the end? Do you see any of these signs in our world right now? Which of the common responses listed in the outline are you feeling as you read these scriptures?
- 5) How can we pray for you today?