

## ***Eschatology and You***

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Many of us don't hear the word *eschatology* in our daily conversations, so let's first practice its pronunciation. Consider how Americans say words like **school** and **schedule**. Now think of the word *Eskimo* and try *eska-tology* with confidence.

You may recognize the Greek origin of this word and how its latter half indicates *study*. The first half is from *eschatos*, meaning *last* or how things *end*. While often regarded in many religions as mainly the study of *last days* or *end times*, it should have a broader scope in our Christian life. Think of how roughly half of all prophecy in the Bible has already been fulfilled. All of those past events as well as those of the future can be examined in the light of eschatology. So what's yours?

We have ample record of our King and Savior stating that the Kingdom is near. True, *thee* King was standing right in front of the recipient, but it is the element of time that has tripped us up. At that moment, only the Father knew the exact time of the Great Tribulation and Christ's return. Yet some of the earliest Christians assumed it would occur in their lifetime. Actually, it did in a sense, and we will address this further on.

While the earliest converts from Judaism accepted the Messiah's first coming, many of their contemporaries rejected Christ to the point of His execution. They simply didn't see the eschatology unfolding before them. Dozens of prophecies regarding Him and His payment of our death penalty were disregarded. Today, we are just as susceptible to missing the remaining eschatology.

Let's return to the relationship of *distance* and *time*. Allowing Christ to live in us and through us for our remaining days on Earth defines our individual eschatology. Any and every breath may be our last and when that happens, we are preserved for resurrection (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Anticipation of that heavenly state can create much excitement and speculation. However, please stay sober and focus on what happens at our last breath, whenever that may occur.

Reflect on some of your relatives and acquaintances who have already passed. Now go back another generation, then another. Go back centuries if you will. At every death, *that* was and is the precise moment in time whichever future resurrection awaits them (Revelation 20). This extends to those of us still alive in the last perilous days, caught up to meet Christ at His return with our fellow saints. The future Kingdom has *always* been *one last breath away* for each of us!

Until then, we who accept and submit to our King now become sojourning subjects to His Kingdom in a world ruled by Satan (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11). We must bring every good glimpse of the future on Earth into full view of our neighbors while there is still light in their eyes and ours. This includes overcoming to the end. We at [www.eccl.org](http://www.eccl.org) intend to serve you with the good news of a much brighter tomorrow.

As imperfect humans, we can easily overcomplicate the simplest of prophecies; we have an enormous helper in this regard called Satan. Please remember that even after he and his minions are defeated and bound for a thousand years, those humans remaining will still have choices between our King's way and any neutral, selfish, or animalistic tendencies. Just because God will change some animal traits does not preclude the human responsibility to accept and choose His way and will. Please remember, it's *all* eschatology -- ***YOUR*** eschatology!

## ***Judgment Day***

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Before going any further, please take a moment to consider other study resources available to you. We try to point you towards free materials whenever possible, such as the Online Bible. It's a winner in its free, basic form and can be greatly enhanced for less than a hundred dollars. We suggest paying for some modern translation royalties as desired. We will share just a few of the powerful features found in the free download.

Some printed Bibles have small concordances at the back. Better is the ability to look up *all* target related words and scriptures in an *exhaustive* concordance. With an electronic version, you can simply key in the first part of a word followed by an asterisk (i.e. hypocr\* to search for hypocrite, hypocrites, and hypocrisy). Keep in mind that when you use it to display the original Greek or Hebrew meanings, your quest for accuracy is limited to the much appreciated work of diligent, yet imperfect humans using the language of the their time.

It can be extremely helpful to run several of the most recognized Bibles simultaneously on the screen, with the verses scrolling in automatic synchronization. You can quickly compare various translations this way to achieve a better understanding. No matter what electronic tools you use, please also revert back to a few portable printed items such as a Bible or two and printed guides such as this. Learn to live without electricity.

Continuing on with eschatology, we suggest you understand our different meanings of some key terms: *judgment, damnation, discernment, accusation* and *condemnation*. Keep in mind that our corrupted language has uses for the word *love* that mean anything but God's love (e.g. idol worship and fornication). So please join us in the following definitions.

We prefer to reserve the word *judgment* for God's divine providence. Whether we are deemed righteous by accepting the blood of His Son and His rule of grace, or we are *damed* to an eternal hellfire death for our disobedience, this is God's domain. Whereas our job is to properly *discern* our world without vainly attempting to usurp God's authority. That is Satan's error and he continually tries to pull us into his hell.

In his attempt to trick us into empowering him, Satan *accuses* us **as if** he has some authority to *condemn* us. This father of all lies can actually control us if we let him. He wants us to miserably relive our sins of yesterday and fall off a course to a new life in Christ. Satan wants us discouraged and dying with him. God wants us encouraged and alive with Christ. Faithful, repentant followers are saved by grace, period.

Please don't let our firm preferences for these terms create a distraction for you when listening to another's use of the same words, as they might come from a respectable history of Biblical discourse. We have simply honed in on some distinguishing characteristics that can make a difference in your study with us in this new century. Here's a short recap for you to pocket:

**Judgment** is God's sole authority. His *mercy* offers us eternal *salvation* or upon our rebellion, **damnation**. Any day can be our judgment day. It's always just a heartbeat away. When we don't extend forgiving mercy to others just as God offers us, we invite the alternative judgment from Him.

**Discernment** is our responsibility, *deferring* to God's judgment, not taking revenge.

**Accusation** is Satan's **con** job on us to accept his destructive authority over us, trading our given grace and righteousness for his mutual **condemnation**. Let God's Holy Spirit **convict** of your sins and inspire your replacement with righteousness.

## ***Forgive and Reflect***

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We would like you to learn a new phrase. While the ultimate goal is to eventually forget about it, there is a process we promote for God to forgive *us*. It should become both *reflexive* and *reflective*. Start with the principle of forgiving seven times seventy (Matthew 18:22). It is safe to assume that we will probably experience repeat offenders, until they have broken free from their chains.

Let's also remember that it's not necessarily the same actor committing new offenses. Consider the possibility of Satan reigniting an old issue we thought we had thoroughly discharged. Resisting the devil again may include repeated prayers for blessing the offender, while reviewing the thoroughness of our previous forgiveness. In either case, we need to *react instantly* to the assault, regardless of the source.

Next, seize the opportunity to *reflect* on how we might be offending others in a similar way. After all, when we are irritated by someone else, it is often a trait in ourselves which is coming to light. Also, prayerfully consider how you might be offending *God* in a similar manner. You might be surprised at what He illuminates! This process can be another helpful way to replace hypocrisy with humility.

During this self-examination, remember who paid for your sins and how. Meditate, but don't obsess. Whether the bad behaviors are yours, somebody else's, or both, trust that the payment is final. We approach forgetting by remembering this. Forgive and reflect!

## ***MOB Rule***

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Sir Winston Churchill stated that democracy is horrible, but it's the best thing we've got. May we add: *until our King returns to rule all*. In America, we've had a steady growth of our government filling in the gaps of religious benevolence. What else could be expected from a growing void of God's values toward neighborly care and concern? As a nation that formed pursuing various liberties, it required there be no state church and protected our freedom to worship whatever we choose, including nothing at all. While a seemingly great idea at the time, it should come as no surprise that this manmade democracy is headed for big problems, as it reflects the changing values of a people who drift further from God's directions and blessings.

The concept of a government sponsored safety net became anchored with our Social Security system. Americans are assigned a Social Security Account Number from their earliest years, and this identifying mark has been expanded into health care control and surrendered to the credit industry. So we now have one number that ultimately controls our employment, our bank account, our health care, our retirement, and our credit in a consumer debt society. If this doesn't sound familiar to you, please read the book of Revelation.

In short, we now have a controlling number that *allows* us to buy and sell. No wonder that a handful of states outlawed RFID implant chips in the previous decade. This specific technology was eventually banned from human use for health concerns, so a rebirth in another form should be expected. Our children are now being indoctrinated into this acceptance as they wear RFID wrist bands and identity cards at theme parks and schools, which are also collecting their biometric information. Whether we're a hundred years, months, weeks, or days away from implementation, please know that the **mark of the beast** is at the ready. Are we?

(For more information, start with Revelation chapters 13, 14, 19, & 20, as well as our [About Us](#) pages.)

## ***Be A.L.E.R.T.***

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We could rephrase this acronym as *become alert* or *stay alert*. You can lock it in however it works for you. We just offer it as a helpful tool for your daily battles. First, *memorize* your need to be **A**ware of **L**usts, **E**motions, **R**esentments, and your **T**ongue. Repeat those few words until they start etching their way into your long term memory. Now let's break them down.

**A**ware of every thought and bring it into subjection to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). Is it worthy of your calling or is it of Satan?

**L**usts, likes, and loves can replace our attention to God by over-stimulating our pleasure centers to the point of addiction. They can promote idol worship of self, others, or things, to the point they take control of you.

**E**motions can lower us to an animal state if we allow them. We are created for something much greater and must maintain that higher calling (Proverbs 29:11).

**R**esentments are evidence of our failure to completely forgive others, which means we are not yet forgiven either. See our article: *Forgive and Reflect*.

**T**ongues expose the heart's health. These two robust muscles share such a strong bond in spiritual health and disease, we can benefit by first comparing some physical traits. When we're exposed to a cold or flu virus, we can become carriers before we feel the symptoms. Likewise, we can spread spiritual illness before it comes to our attention.

Whether by murmur, gossip, deceit, or any other diseased transmission, we can have an adverse effect on everyone we contact and their subsequent contacts (Proverbs 30:32). Please remember that of all those who have mastered speech, they include pathological liars and other evil minded folks. They know exactly what to say to get what they want.

People who realize they've *come down with something* and are growing spiritually can at least cover their mouths before they cough, sneeze, or speak any ill, mindful of their potential infection of others. For this reason, we emphasize spiritual heart health first, as we see how the mouth will eventually follow (despite an occasional hiccup along the way). Consider your tongue as a sort of meter for your heart's health. If you think or speak ill of anyone, including yourself, you need to fight off a spiritual type of infection. It can come from different sources, including Satan and his minions. Resist him and allow God's spirit to heal and strengthen.

You've probably heard of hair replacement therapy and hormone replacement therapy. Please consider continuing on your lifelong road to spiritual health with *heart replacement therapy*. It's interesting how the words *valve* and *value* share elements of control and strength. Consider your valuation of *everything* and how it compares to God's values (or Satan's devaluation).

So which spirit will we follow? How do we change our selections and our destination? We've posted a simple **Replacement Therapy** chart you can print out and consult frequently. There is some white space on it for you to write in verses, your own notes, or additions. You might notice a type of circular flow on both sides of the ledger and some cross reference from side to side. The neutral space in between reminds us of a future when Satan is bound, yet there remains a possible Godless void. The chart doesn't list every possible challenge, habit, or addiction, but it can be adapted on the go for your personal growth and renewal. God bless!

(Click on [GoodNewsClips™](#) for the 2018 Replacement Therapy chart PDF download, scriptural support, and MP3 audio notes.)

# REPLACEMENT THERAPY

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## REPLACE THIS:      **CRISIS**

SATAN'S LYING PRIDE      (FALSE GOD)  
SELF-EXALTATION      SELF-IDOLIZATION  
"I AM ABOVE OTHERS, I AM ABOVE GOD"  
"I DETERMINE TRUTH, TWIST IT, or  
IGNORE IT ALTOGETHER (DENIAL)"      "IT'S  
ALL RELATIVE TO MY CONVENIENCE"  
"MY IDOLS ARE GOD"      ARROGANCE  
VANITY EGO CONCEIT FOOLISH PRIDE

## WORLDLINESS, GO WITH THE FLOW

REBELLION      REJECTION  
SELFISHNESS  
GREED  
JEALOUSY      COVETOUSNESS  
LUST  
IMPATIENCE

HYPOCRISY      SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS  
(See Christ confront the accusers in John 8)

ANGER RESENTMENT BITTERNESS

REVENGE      "I HAVE THE RIGHT TO  
AVENGE AND I WILL USURP GOD'S  
DIVINE AUTHORITY AND PROVIDENCE."

ACCUSATION      ...towards others as  
GOSSIP and MURMURING...

...towards you as FIERY DARTS of Satan's  
**CONDEMNATION** (whether true or false,  
remember that you ARE forgiven – so this is a  
**CON** either way). Consider how the word  
condemnation also means to label as unfit or  
to claim for public use. Satan tries to (**con**)  
condemn us all the time through accusations  
that we should remain unworthy and worldly.

NEGATIVE GOSSIP COARSE JESTING

FEAR WORRY OBSESSION DESPAIR

DOUBT INSTABILITY IDENTITY THEFT

## ...WITH THIS:      **CHRIST**

TRUE GODLY CHARACTER, VIRTUE

BE HOLY & SUBJECT to *THEE* KING  
WORSHIP GOD, IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

MEEKNESS CONTRITION

FAITHFUL HUMILITY

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

ACCEPTANCE (GIFTS & CORRECTION)  
SHARING (INCLUDES GOD'S TRUTH)  
CHARITY  
GRATITUDE  
WISDOM      SELF-CONTROL  
TOLERANCE

AUTHENTICITY      HONESTY

FORGIVENESS & REFLECTION  
(IMMEDIATE & GENUINE)

DISCERNMENT & DEFERRMENT to  
GOD'S JUDGMENT, MERCY

REPENTANCE

When convicted *by the Holy Spirit* with a  
twinge or pang of guilt, **give thanks** that  
your warning lights, alarm bells, and red  
flags still work. **Agree** with God about  
your error (submission and confession).  
Be **confident** that you are forgiven by  
**accepting** Christ's sacrifice! **Honor**  
God's grace by allowing His **cleansing** of  
your hardened heart. You will then  
**choose** His will and **replace** VALUES,  
THOUGHTS, SPEECH, and ACTION as  
needed (2 Cor. 10:5).

PRAISE BLESSING EDIFICATION

RESPECT AWE MEDITATION HOPE

TRUST RESOLVE IDENTITY FAITH

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