

BCC Course on Biblical Eschatology
Week 5 = The Church's Place in Eschatology

I.) The Church's Place in Eschatology Scripture Preparation

Read: Revelation 2-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

A.) The Church Defined:

- 1.) It is a Messianic / New Covenant community of believing Israelites and Gentiles in this age between Jesus' two comings.
- 2.) The Church is related to Old Testament promises that the Messiah would bring blessings to Israel and Gentiles. (Rom. 11:17-24)
- 3.) Church is founded upon Jesus, the apostles, and New Testament prophets (Eph. 2:20)

B.) What The Church Does:

- 1.) The church is the pillar and support of the truth in this age. (1 Tim. 3:15)
- 2.) The church is the means for Gospel proclamation in this age.
 - Great Commission (Matt 28)
 - Gospel to world (Acts 1)
- 3.) The church should be a means to make Israel jealous to believe in Jesus as Messiah. (Rom. 11:14)

C.) Eschatology in Rev. 2-3

- **Ephesus**: "To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God."
- **Smyrna**: "He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death."
- **Pergamum**: "To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it."
- **Thyatira**: "He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; ²⁷ and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star."
- **Sardis**: "He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."
- **Philadelphia**: "Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."
 - "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name."
- **Laodicea**: "He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

1.) **The Church is looking for The Lord to Return.**

- "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus" (Titus 2:13)
- "You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near." (James 5:8)

- "Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." (Romans 13:11-12)
- He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)

2.) **The Church will be Evacuated from the Day of The Lord.**

- But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:36)
- "Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth." (Rev. 3:10)
- "and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come." (1 Thess. 1:10)
- "For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:9)

3.) **The Church Will Rule the Nations in the Millennial Kingdom**

- He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; ²⁷ and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces (Rev. 2:26-27)
- "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." (Rev. 5:10)
- "He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne." (Rev. 3:21)
- The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' ¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.' ¹⁸ The second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' ¹⁹ And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.' (Luke 19:16-19)

II.) The Church's Place in Eschatology Discussion Questions

1. How important is understanding "The Church's Place in Eschatology" for knowing God's purposes?
2. What do you think of the idea that members of the church are headed for a kingdom reign with Jesus on earth after Jesus' return?
3. Do you believe churches talk about eschatology too much, too little, or just right? Explain.

