

Studies in Biblical Eschatology
The Already and the Not Yet
Nov. 5, 2000 (Message #4)

Introduction

What role does eschatology play in your life?

I. We are living in the last days

- A. Our Lord's ministry marked the beginning of the last days (Heb. 1:1-2)
- B. The outpouring of the Spirit marked the beginning of the last days (Acts 2:16-17)
- C. From a redemptive-historical perspective, our age, inaugurated by the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, is the end of the age (1 Cor. 10:6, 11).
- D. Increased evil is also a mark of the last days (Matt. 13:36-43; 1 Jn. 2:18; 2 Tim. 3:1)

II. These last days have been infiltrated by the age to come

- A. Because our Lord inaugurated the Kingdom in His life and death, elements of the consummation of the Kingdom (which belongs to the age to come) have become realities for us in these last days.
- B. Resurrection, which belongs to the age to come, has invaded this age Eph. 2:7; Col. 3:1; Rom. 8:11
- C. The New Creation, which belongs to the age to come, has invaded this age 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15
- D. The Kingdom of God, which belongs to the age to come, has invaded this age Rom. 14:17; Col. 1:13

III. The Overlap of the Two Ages Creates a Tension Between the Already and the Not Yet

- A. In our salvation this tension exists
 - 1. Our bodies (Rom. 8:18-25)
 - 2. Our sin (Gal. 5:17)
 - 3. Our present and future state (1 Jn. 3:1)
- B. In our relationship with this world (1 Jn. 2:15-17)
- C. In our relationship with the devil (Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14; 1 Pet. 5:8)

IV. The Practical Implications of Living in the Already and the Not Yet

- A. A historical illustration: D-Day and VE Day

- B. We live with the pledges and guarantees of consummation
 - 1. Firstfruits of the Spirit (Rom. 8:23)
 - 2. The sealing and pledge of the Spirit (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:14)
 - 3. The Spirit of resurrection indwells us (Rom. 8:11),
Christ's resurrection guarantees our resurrection.

- C. We live with the confidence of real change and greater change to come
 - 1. Old has passed away, the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17)
 - 2. We are now the children of God with greater
prospects on the horizon (1 Jn. 3:1)

- D. We live under the dominion of Christ and not sin and Satan
 - 1. Sin's bondage has been broken through the inauguration of the Kingdom
Rom. 6:4
 - 2. Satan's bondage has also been broken
1 Jn. 3:8; 5:18

Conclusion