

The Psychological Effects of Eschatology

1. The psychological effect of eschatology has to do with the mental effects that a persons view can have upon them and their view of the Bible
2. The Postmillennial Mentality
 - a. Very optimistic about the state of the world
 - b. The golden age of Christianity is actively being built

Does this thought process pose any psychological problems for those in modern day? For example: If the world is getting more Christianized, then what are we to make of the incredible evil that is in the world?

3. The Amillennial Mentality
 - a. There will be a steady increase in both Christianity and evil
 - b. The kingdom of God will continue to grow but so will those who reject grace
4. The Historic Premillennial Mentality
 - a. There is a growing apostasy or evil in the world
 - b. This is opposite the Postmillennial view – pessimistic verses optimistic
5. The Dispensational Premillennial Mentality
 - a. Extremely pessimistic – The whole world will be in apostasy
 - b. Times grow worse and worse until the secret rapture which concludes the gospel preaching era

Consider this mentality – The church will not suffer because they will be removed however, the gospel preaching seems to be absent in power because less and less people will come to Christ through preaching and the only escape will be the rapture.

6. One major question that must be addressed is this: What power does the gospel have over the psychology of men?
 - a. Each of the four major views has been the dominant view at one point in time in the history if the church
 - b. Post and Amill views prosper during periods of revival
 - i. The Amill view allows for God to work at any point in time through any circumstance (both good and bad)
 - ii. Consider the Great Awakenings of the late 1700's and 1800's – The Postmill was extremely excited about this time period (Jonathan Edwards was excited about this large conversion of mankind because of his postmill perspective)

What do you think the effects would be on those who saw the great awakenings and then saw the continued evil in the world (WWI, WWII, etc.)?

- c. Premill views
 - i. Prospers during times of war (Mt 24:6; Mk 13:7) or economic downturn
 - ii. From the pessimistic perspective the only hope people have is the rapture
7. Dispensationalism (Premill) is the most popular view today
 - a. What do you think is driving this push today?
 - b. This is a “signs of the times” mentality and encourages the likes of those who try and predict the return of Christ

Is there a danger in interpreting the Bible based on the signs of the times? Note how the psychology effects one interpretation:

- Does it not rain on the just and the unjust?

- If wickedness is allowed to prosper does that mean God's plan is failing and our only hope is the rapture?
- If there is a great apostasy or falling away in America does that mean that the gospel is failing everywhere? Some would like to think so
 - Can God not cause a spiritual drought in one place while simultaneously pouring out a river of grace on another?

We would do well to be very cautious about letting the times interpret the Bible instead of allowing God's Word to speak and stand for itself.

8. Don't let your state of mind overrule what God has commanded:
 - a. Acts 1:7; 1 Thess 5:1-11
9. We are called to preach the gospel until the end and not be side tracked by any "signs of the times"
 - a. 2 Tim 4:2; Ecclesiastes 11
 - b. We do not know the plan of God and should not be side tracked from our purpose in preaching Christ crucified

"Man usually finds what he is looking for." ~ Bro. Jim Gables

10. We should not go to the Bible trying to prove our hunch or preconceived notion; we go to the Bible to see what God has to say and has decreed