

CHRIST'S RETURN & OUR RESPONSE AND ETERNAL DESTINY Sunday: 11/12/2023 – Pastor Lenard Tavernelli

“None of us is on the planning committee for Jesus return, no we're all on the welcome team”

Overview:

This week Pastor Lenard taught us from Article 9 & 10 from our Statement of Faith. These articles cover beliefs in Christ's return, our response, and issues of eternal destiny.

Concerning Christ's return there is confusion, disagreements, and sensationalism. Pastor Lenard described the four main views that are held concerning Christ's return and highlighted that our denomination reminds us that we can hold any of these views and remain in fellowship with each other. The important part of this for us is that we all understand and believe the issues we can all agree on; Jesus' personal, bodily and glorious return. It is this belief that gives us hope and should be the catalyst to motivate us in our walk with Jesus.

Article 10 reminds us the proper response to the Gospel. A faith, as Pastor Lenard stated, had three aspects (notitia, assensus, and fiducia). We are to know and understand the truths of Jesus, we must affirm that it is true, and we must embrace and trust that Jesus will save us. Pastor Lenard used that idea of getting into the wheelbarrow to explain this type of faith. In addition to our response of statement of faith affirms that there will be a judgement for all. For some this judgement will be before their savior, for others it will be condemnation and eternal punishment before their righteous judge.

Outline:

Article 9

1. The Nature of Jesus' Return (Matthew 24:30, Acts 1:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)
2. The Timing of Christ's Return (Matthew 24:36-51)
 - a. Timing Unknown (v36-42)
 - b. Demands Expectancy (v43-44)
 - c. Motivates Faithfulness



Article 10 (Revelation 20:11-15)

1. The Bodily Resurrection (John 5:25-29)
2. The Final Judgement (Acts 17:31)
3. The Everlasting Punishment of Unbelievers (Rev. 21:1-8)
4. The Everlasting Joy of Believers
5. The Proper Response.

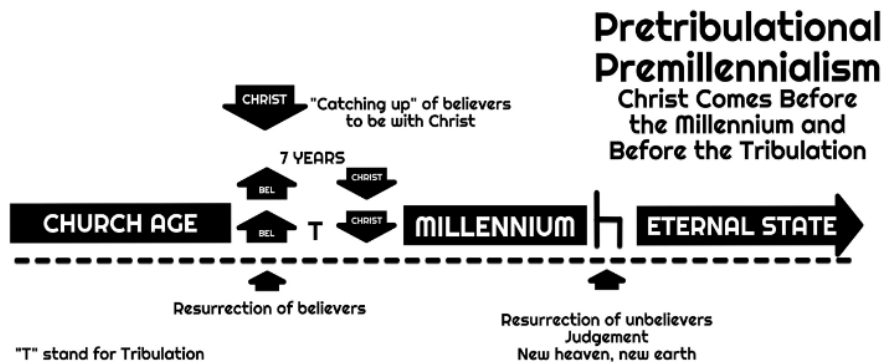
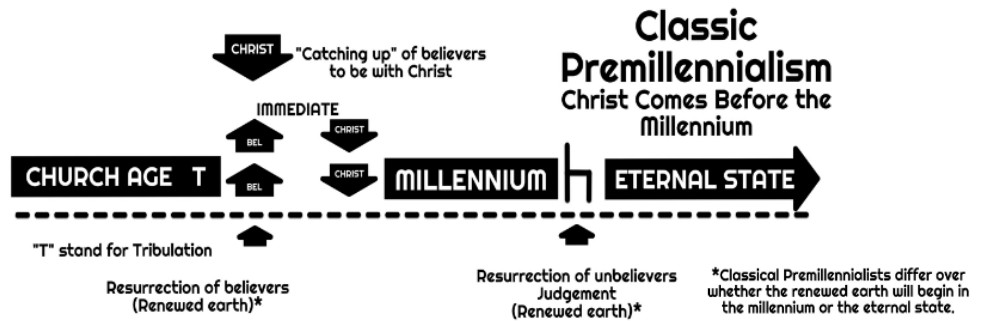
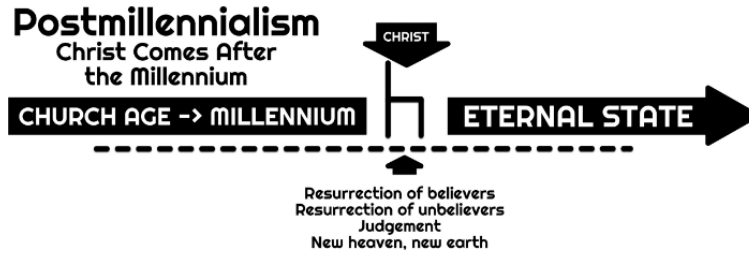
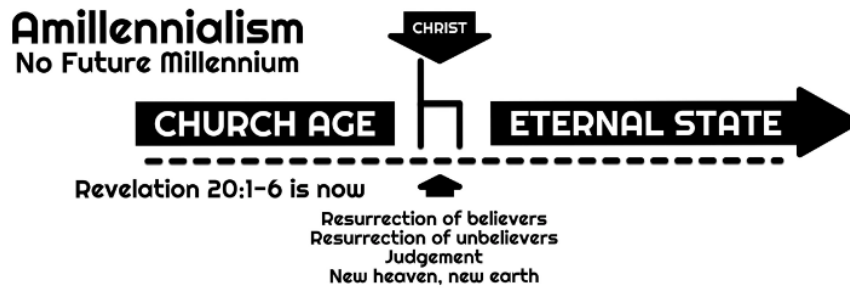
Discussion Questions

1. In general, how has hope motivated you in the past? (examples: fitness/exercise, study/grades).
2. There is an expectancy of Jesus' return that should bring about a motivation to how we live. Can you describe how the return of Christ effects your daily living or how was the sermon shown you a need for growth in this area?
3. In Matthew 24:44 what does it mean to "be ready" for the return of Jesus?
 - a. Are you living with expectancy?
4. Read Revelation 20:11-15 – 21:1-8.
 - a. How does the picture of a new heavens and a new earth motivate you to proclaim the truth of Jesus and remain faithful?
 - b. God takes those whose names are not in the book of life are thrown into the lake of fire. How can you explain to a friend that a good God would do something like this?
5. With Thanksgiving around the corner how does this message motivate you to give thanks?

References:

4 Views on the millennium

- Amillennialism
- Post Millennialism
- Dispensational Premillennialism
- Historic Premillennialism



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Article 9 – Christ’s Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Article 10 – Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

¹ Diagrams from: <https://pastorchrisbass.wordpress.com/2020/08/26/4-views-of-the-millennium/>