

True Believers Persevere Until the End

Introduction and Review

- We have concluded our examination of the beginning of creation & humanity in Genesis.
- We have seen God's faithfulness in grace & mercy even after humanity's awful sin & failures.
- God has proven that He has a wonderful plan of redemption in spite of humanity's awful sin & failures.
- God has proven that He will maintain a faithful witness on earth in spite of sin & evil – Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, etc. (Heb. 11:1ff).
- God who knows the end from the beginning will ensure that His great redemptive plan is fulfilled without failure until the end!

I. Eschatology

A. Definition

The study of future events is called eschatology. The term is derived from the Greek word “ἔσχατος” which means “last” (2Tim. 3:1). Therefore eschatology is the study of “last things”.

B. Distinction

*We will consider **two categories** for our study of eschatology: Personal and General. Personal eschatology is the study of last things that affect our lives individually. General eschatology is the study of last things that will affect the entire universe & all of creation.*

Eschatology is the study of last things that will affect individuals, the entire universe & all creation.

II. Personal Eschatology

A. Perseverance

Neither false believers nor unbelievers will persevere in any form of faith to the end of their lives (Mt. 13:18-22). Only people who have truly been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit will persevere in faith to the end of their lives. God Himself promises this will be true (Jn. 6:38-40; 8:31-32; 10:27-29). God Himself ensures that this is true (Rom. 8:28-39; Phil. 1:6; 1Pe. 1:5).

B. Certainty

Since only true believers will persevere to the end & be saved, you must be certain that you are born again (2Co. 13:5; Jn. 3:16; Rom. 8:14-16; Gal. 5:22-23; 2Pe. 1:5-10). Only true believers have the certainty of God's promises that are made to His children (Rom. 8:28).

Personal eschatology is the study of last things that affects true believers, false believers & unbelievers.

APPL: Eschatology as the study of future events or last things should never be considered abstractly, in isolation or as an impersonal matter. Eschatology affects every individual whether they are aware of it now or not. Personal eschatology for the believer begins with an assurance of being born again & confidence of perseverance until the end of life.