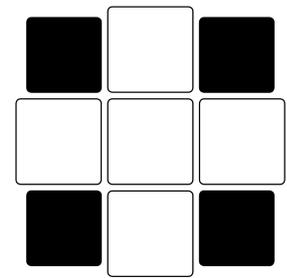


The Value of Knowing the End

Scripture: **Daniel 12**

Series: **The Pilgrim Life: Living as God's People in a Pagan Land**

Sunday, June 19, 2016



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Overview

The book of Daniel, indeed the whole of scripture, points toward God's redemptive and restorative work in and through Christ. There is value in knowing the end of the story, i.e. eschatology. This knowing not only is an understanding about what will happen in the future, but also the "why" of the present.

Corroborating Texts

Philippians 4:2-5; Revelation 3, 20; Ephesians 1:4; John 6:40,44; 1 Corinthians 15:12-28; 1 John 3:2-3; Romans 8:28-30; Romans 8:18

Discussion Questions

1. Review the main themes of Daniel. What has God been communicating throughout this book? When possible, encourage the people in your group to use scripture to support their thoughts. (e.g. Israel's God is sovereign over kings [chps 1, 2, 3, etc.] and kingdoms [2, 7, 12, etc.]). Other themes include exile, preservation of God's people in exile, restoration of God's people, etc.
2. Do you value knowledge of the end with the same emphasis that Scripture gives to it? Are you prone to dismiss it as irrelevant? Or are you prone to emphasize minute details about wars, dates and symbols? Instead, we should focus rightly on the end. This looks like being assured of our future life, believing in Christ's resurrection and looking forward to our own, and understanding and anticipating future glory.
3. The book of Daniel, as well as Philippians and Revelation, speak of the book of life. Does this truth inspire fear or assurance in you? How should the Christian live their life if they have assurance of salvation?
4. Do you realize that the end [heaven] does not look like a disembodied immaterial spiritual existence? Instead, we look forward to the very real resurrection of a fully sanctified material body that can withstand the presence of our creator. How does this knowledge provide hope? And how ought we live if we have this hope?
5. Read 1 John 3:2-3. Recall the context since it wasn't that long ago Joe preached through that passage. How does this passage describe the glorification of the children of God? What is the source or cause of our glorification? (Not us, but Christ since we are united to him by faith – see 1 John 2:23-29)

6. Now what does it look like for a community group to rightly understand and value a knowledge of God's plan for the end? Joe mentioned suffering well (see Romans 8:18) and seeking God's glory in the present. Get specific—what does that actually look like for your community group? Our future is an eradication of sin. How do you anticipate that now? [personal and corporate holiness] Our future is a bodily resurrection and new creation. How do you anticipate that in the present? [love God, seek justice, live like Christ is the king he showed himself to be and to whom Daniel points forward]