

Doctrine of Future Things

Pastor Ritch Boerckel

I. Course Description

This class will explore the Bible's teaching regarding the yet-to-be fulfilled promises of the biblical covenants, the relationship of Israel and the church, the blessed hope of the Christian, the rapture of the church, the great tribulation period, the second coming of Jesus Christ, the millennial kingdom, the future judgments of God, and the eternal state of both the redeemed and the unredeemed.

II. Course Objectives

ILLUSTRATION: The "Pan" millennialist and his error.

1. Bible prophecy gives a greater joy and wonder in God's sovereignty, wisdom, and faithfulness so that we would love Him and worship Him.

Romans 11:32—36 (ESV) "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

Revelation 1:17-19 (ESV) "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this."

2. Bible prophecy comforts those grieving over the death of loved ones.

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1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NIV) Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

John 14:1-3 (NIV) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

3. Bible prophecy helps us to live holy lives in this corrupt world.

Colossians 3:4-5 (NIV) When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Titus 2:12-13 (NIV) It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

2 Peter 3:13-14 (NIV) But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

1 John 3:2-3 (NIV) Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

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4. Bible prophecy motivates us to strengthen other believers when we meet together.

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

5. Bible prophecy strengthens love among believers.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (NIV) May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. Doctrine of Future Things Ritch Boerckel Course Description

1 Corinthians 4:5 (NIV) Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

James 5:9 (NIV) Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

6. Bible prophecy encourages commitment to Christian ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-2 (NIV) In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 (NIV) For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

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2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NIV) | have fought the good fight, | have finished the race, | have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NIV) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV) Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

7. Bible prophecy helps us to persevere in the faith.

1 John 2:28 (NIV) And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

Revelations 3:11 (NIV) I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

James 5:7-8 (NIV) Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

Let us be diligent in studying the prophetic Scriptures so that we would benefit from the blessing that God has for those who do!

8. Bible prophecy builds faith in the authority of the Scripture

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Micah 5:2 (NIV) "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

9. Bible prophecy gives us hope so that we live with positive confidence and do not despair when we see the world crumbling in spiritual darkness.

Romans 8:17-25 (ESV) "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

2 Corinthians 4:17-5:1 (ESV) "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Lehman Strauss

"Dr. Wilbur M. Smith suggests that there are three different attitudes one may take toward the future. The first is indifference, the second is fear and the third is hope. No intelligent person would take the first, no one needs to be ensnared in the second, but all can possess the third. There is comfort and hope for all believers who love and study the Bible. Paul wrote, For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our

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learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope (Romans 15:4). What is said here to be true of the Bible in general is, of course, true of the prophetic Scriptures.”

III. Course Requirements

1. Attendance.
2. Readings: Read the assigned chapters and articles.
3. Paper: Complete one 2-3 page paper on the subject of the millennial reign of Christ or on the subject of God’s faithfulness to His promises to national Israel.
4. Quiz: One quiz will be given as a take home assignment.

IV. Course Textbook

Benware, Paul N. Understanding End Times Prophecy. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2006.