

## **End Times**

### **I. Introduction to the course**

#### **A. The course content**

1. How Can We Know About the Future? – Sep 2/3
2. Jesus Is Coming Back – Sep 9/10
3. The Day Is Unknown – Sep 16/17
4. Christ Could Come at Any Time – Sep 23/24
5. What Can We Expect While We Are Waiting? – Sep 30/Oct 1
6. The Antichrist – Oct 7/8
7. The Events of Judgment Day – Oct 14/15
8. The Resurrection of the Dead – Oct 21/22
9. The Final Judgment – Oct 28/29
10. Hell – Nov 4/5
11. Heaven – Nov 11/12
12. What Happens If I Die Before the End? – Nov 18/19
13. Applying the Bible's Teachings – Nov 25/26
  
14. Millennialism – Jan 6/7
15. Postmillennialism – Jan 13/14
16. Premillennialism – Jan 20/21
17. Dispensationalism – Jan 27/28
18. The Tribulation and the Rapture – Feb 3/4
19. Millennialism in the Lutheran Church and Conclusion – Feb 10/11

#### **B. What we will try to learn**

1. God's plan for the end of the world
2. Events of the final judgment
3. The application of End Times teachings to our lives
4. False teachings about the end times

#### **C. How to prepare for each session**

1. Read the chapters from the book.
2. Answer the questions on the handouts.
3. Consider the issues that are being raised by the readings.

## **1. How Can We Know About the Future?**

1. What is the only sure source of information about the future?
2. Why is God's knowledge about the future important to us?
3. Why does God reveal information to us about the future?
4. Why might God not reveal more to us about the future?
5. Who was Nostradamus?
6. Give several examples of prophecies in the Old Testament that were fulfilled in the New Testament.
7. Why is the occult dangerous?
8. What is astrology?

## **2. Jesus Is Coming Back**

1. What does God foretell about political events?
2. What does God foretell about natural events?
3. What does God foretell about our personal lives?
4. How does the Bible keep our attention focused on the “big event”?
5. Explain why the signs of the end are significant to Christians but not unbelievers.
6. Discuss the ages of the Biblical timeline.
7. How does Christianity differ from Hinduism and Buddhism in terms of timeline?

### **3. The Day Is Unknown**

1. Why hasn't the LORD given us the date on which He will return?
2. Use Biblical illustrations to explain how Jesus' Second Coming will occur.
3. What do we mean when we say the return of Christ will be unexpected?
4. In what way will the return of Christ be sudden?
5. What are some reasons why trying to determine the date of Christ's return is pointless?
6. Who was Cotton Mather?
7. What is the significance of the Mayan calendar?

#### **4. Christ Could Come at Any Time**

1. Why were the people of the Old Testament hoping the Day of the LORD would come soon?
2. How did the focus of the New Testament church change relative to Christ's return?
3. What will be the signs in nature of Christi's return?
4. What will be the political signs?
5. What will be the signs in the church?
6. Should Christians pray that the second coming occurs sooner?
7. What were biblical hints that Christ's second coming might be delayed?

## **5. What Can We Expect While We Are Waiting?**

1. What signs in nature will occur as Judgment Day approaches?
2. What are some of the causes of wars that will occur before Judgment Day?
3. Why will Christians experience anxiety?
4. What troubles will the church face?
5. In what ways are Christians persecuted today?
6. What will happen at the very end?
7. What positive things will happen for God's kingdom as Judgment Day approaches?

## **6. The Antichrist**

1. What is an antichrist?
2. What are the marks of an antichrist?
3. Is there only one antichrist? Why or why not?
4. Who first identified the papacy as the Great Antichrist?
5. What groups historical have recognized the papacy as the Great Antichrist?
6. What are the key activities which make the papacy fulfill the predictions about the antichrist?
7. How should we respond to the papacy?

## **7. The Events of Judgment Day**

1. What are key points about the return of Christ?
2. What will be the role of the angels?
3. What is the cosmic cataclysm?
4. What will be the response of the ignorant unbelievers?
5. What will be the response of the recalcitrant unbelievers?
6. What will be the response of the believers?
7. What is the “fear of fulfilment?”



## **8. The Resurrection of the Dead**

1. What are the details of the resurrection?
2. How will the resurrection affect the people who are still living?
3. Who will do the raising from the dead?
4. What will the resurrected bodies of the believers be like?
5. What will the resurrected bodies of the unbelievers be like?
6. How will people be able to recognize each other?
7. What two factors are involved that make the resurrection possible?
8. Why is the doctrine of the resurrection a fundamental doctrine?

## **9. The Final Judgment**

1. What are the key components of a trial?
2. How does God's courtroom differ from an earthly courtroom?
3. Who will be on trial in the final judgment?
4. Who will the judge be?
5. What will be the steps in the judgment process?
6. How does the evidence differ for the believers and the unbelievers?
7. Based on what will believers be justified?
8. Based on what will unbelievers be condemned?

## **10. Hell**

1. What is the role of good works in the final judgment?
2. What does the term “degrees of punishment” mean?
3. What was the original purpose of hell?
4. What is the ultimate punishment of hell?
5. Where is hell located?
6. What role does fire play in hell?
7. What is the basis for denying the existence of hell?

## **11. Heaven**

1. What does “being with the LORD” mean?
2. What are some of the consequences of sin we will not experience in heaven?
3. Why will more than 144,000 people be in heaven?
4. Will we eat in heaven?
5. Who will the residents of heaven be?
6. What will people do in heaven?
7. Where is heaven located?
8. What will our reaction be if some of our friends and relatives are not in heaven?

## **12. What Happens If I Die Before the End?**

1. What is the nature of death?
2. What happens to the soul immediately at death?
3. How can we tell which deceased people are in heaven?
4. What is soul sleep?
5. Can those in heaven contact people still on earth?
6. What is the purpose of Judgment Day?
7. What is the basis of a belief in purgatory?
8. What should our attitude toward death be?

### **13. Applying the Bible's Teachings**

1. What is involved in living in faith in view of the end times?
2. What is meant by the phrase “not embracing the world”? Give examples.
3. What does the phrase “Grace is free but not cheap” mean?
4. What does “working today, planning for tomorrow” mean?
5. How can the return of Christ be both Law and Gospel?
6. What is the Christian attitude toward injustices in the world?
7. What is a “spiritual Pollyanna”?