



the future? If more people recognized what the future holds, fewer people would live for the moment. A proper understanding of the end of time offers far more than mere knowledge, it offers hope.

achieved in this world or in this time. It is a hope that can only be fulfilled in the future.

Paul told the Thessalonians that this eschatological outlook should change their lives. **“We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober”** (1 Thessalonians 5:5-6). How can our lives not change when we know the truth about

### Conclusion

In the end, we have to understand the importance of eschatology. First, the Bible is an eschatological book. We must remember that even though those around us live for the moment, the Bible points us to the future. Second, eschatology is fundamental. It is not just for the older, wiser, more mature Christians. Young Christians must be taught about the end of time in order for them to have the proper worldview. Finally, Eschatology provides hope to an otherwise hopeless world. When we come to realize the truth about what the future holds, we should recognize the need to live in expectation of the end of time.



4700 Andrews Ave.  
Amarillo TX 79106  
806-352-2809  
www.olsenpark.com

Faithful Sayings Issue 16.1 January 5, 2014

## Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

16.1

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

January 5,  
2014



### Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Steve Dixon  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Andrew Dow

## Why Study Eschatology?

By Andrew Dow

**E**schatology is simply *the study of the end times*. Such a study often captivates people. A level of mystery accompanies death and the end of our world. In fact, every religion to some degree addresses the future. It is no wonder that books and movies have tried to depict the end of the world in every way imaginable.

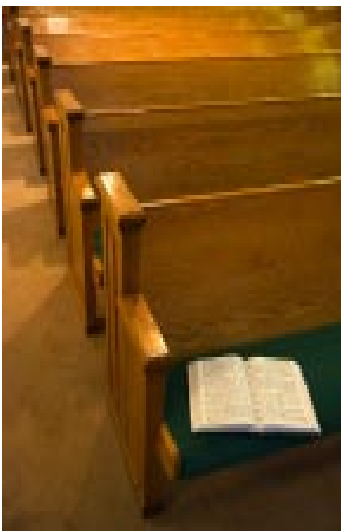
With all of this confusion, one thing is certain: we must be prepared to defend the Biblical perspective of the end of time. Peter wrote, **“Do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence”** (1 Peter 3:14-15, NASU). This should be reason enough to do a thorough study of eschatology, but I believe there are still some more pressing reasons to study the end times.

### The Bible Is An Eschatological Book

The Bible’s opening words, **“In the beginning”** (Genesis 1:1), set the stage for the fact that there will be an end. In the last few words of the Bible Jesus calls us to look to the future by saying, **“Yes, I am coming quickly”** (Revelation 22:20).

The entire Bible, therefore, looks forward to the end of time. Let's look at a few examples of this.

First, notice what God said to the serpent after he deceived man to sin, **"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel"** (Genesis 3:15). This is the first Messianic prophecy. From the beginning of time the Lord had His people looking for future events.



Olsen Park church of Christ

Look also at the Hebrew author's description of an Old Testament character. **"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.... he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God"** (Hebrews 11:8-10). The Hebrew author points out that Abraham was seeking something greater than the physical promised land. The author continues, **"All these died in faith, without receiving the promises.... But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one"** (Hebrews 11:13-16). Abraham was one who looked to the future.

Job also demonstrates this eschatological type of thinking. When faced with his present situation he wrote, **"As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God"** (Job 19:25-26). Job looked forward to a time he described as, **"the last."** He recognized that this will be long after his **"skin is destroyed,"** but it brought him hope.

Many more examples could be given, but, for the sake of time and space, these will suffice. When we read the Bible we should recognize that it is a book that looks forward. Just as the Old Testament pointed forward to the coming of the Messiah (Luke 24:44-46), now the New Testament points forward to the return of the Messiah (Acts 1:11).

### Eschatology Is Fundamental

There seems to be a misconception that a study of the end times should be reserved for mature Christians. This is

probably due to so many conflicting views of what the end will be like (i.e., Premillennialism, Postmillennialism, Amillennialism, etc.). With so much uncertainty about the topic, many find it better to avoid it altogether.

The Scriptures, however, indicate that eschatology is fundamental to Christianity. Take for example the Thessalonians. The two epistles to the Thessalonians are among Paul's earliest letters. Acts 17 records Paul's short stay in Thessalonica, **"And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures.... But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar"** (Acts 17:2, 5). Thus, the church at Thessalonica was only about three weeks old when Paul was rushed out of the city.

1 Thessalonians is Paul's eager message to the young church he was forced to abruptly leave. At this point, the church couldn't have been but a few months old. Notice, though, what Paul says to them, **"Now as to the times and epochs, brethren, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night"** (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2). Paul didn't wait until these Christians matured to explain the end of time to them. This was something that they needed to know right from the start!

### Eschatology Offers Hope

We have seen that eschatology is seen throughout the Bible and that it is fundamental to Christianity, but why? Why is it so important that we come to understand the Biblical teaching of the end of time? A proper understanding of eschatology should change the way we think about our present life.

The book of Revelation is filled with some of the most fantastic imagery of the whole Bible, yet its message is simple. **"To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God"** (Revelation 2:7, cf. 2:11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21). The message is this: if you overcome this present life, you will experience the ultimate rest. Those who are living for Christ have a hope that is unparalleled. This hope is not something that can be