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THE VALUE OF ESCHATOLOGY

1. What we expect to happen to us in the future greatly affects the way we feel about the present. It affects our attitudes and influences our choices. For many (Christian and non-Christian) the future is uncertain which creates fear. They are easily panicked when events occur that are beyond their control.
 - Luke 21:26 *And there will be... distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*
2. You are victorious when the fire of God's Spirit and hope burns brighter than the fires (of fear) raging around you.
 - Romans 8:11 *...He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who dwells in you.*
3. However, those who believe the Bible and the promises of God are able to view the future quite differently! Because of this, believers are able to base their joy and confidence upon God's promises concerning the future even when circumstances may dictate the contrary. **This sense of joyful confidence is called hope.**
 - 1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has THIS HOPE in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

OUR HOPE

1. **Hope is the confident expectation** that God *will* keep His promises. Most New Testament scriptures that mention hope is the Greek word, "elpizo," meaning to expect with confidence, to anticipate with pleasure, faith. We can know AND experience that hope when it is placed in the Person of Jesus Christ!
 - Ephesians 1:18 *...the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you...*

2. **Hope transforms us.**

- 1 John 3:2-3 *Beloved, now we are children of God;... we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

3. **Hope strengthens** our resolve in the face of difficulties.

- Isaiah 40:31 *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

4. **Hope calms** our fear of death.

- John 11:25-26 *I AM the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?*
- John 5:24; 1 Corinthians 15:54-55; Hebrews 2:14-15

5. **Hope gives purpose** to our lives.

- 1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;... (Exodus 19:3-6)*

6. **Our End Time hope is Jesus**, the Mighty Conquering King and Lamb of God.

- Revelation 5:11-14 *...Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!...*
- Revelation 19:11-16 *...And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Addendum

Fear can banish faith, but faith can also banish fear. Fear flees in the light of God's love. — Billy Graham

2 Peter 1:3 *His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,...*

Isaiah 41:10 *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Hebrews 13:5-6 *...For he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"*

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

Psalms 23:4 *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Psalm 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Psalm 91:1-2 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."