

Living Confident at the End of Time



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The Challenge of End Time Living

Mark 13:1-13

1. Things aren't going to get _____
2. Be _____ that no one leads you astray
3. _____ is part of the picture
4. Called to _____ in our faith to the end

How Do We Live Confidently at the End of Time?

Hebrews 10:19-25

1. Let us draw near in _____
 - A. That which matters most is _____
 - B. Confident because of your _____
2. Let us hold fast to the _____ of our hope
3. Let us stir up one another to _____ and good deeds
4. Let us not neglect _____

Lutherans are Amillennialists. Amillennialism is the perspective of the historic church. Most of the popular views of the end times have come into vogue in the last 200+ years. We agree with all Christians that Jesus will come again at the end of time; that his return is immanent and motivates us to be aggressive in outreach. We believe that no one can predict when his return will occur, only God the Father knows. We do not believe that the Bible teaches a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ. The millennial reign of Jesus began when he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. His millennial reign continues forever. (Ephesians 1:19-23). We believe that the tribulation of the Christian church began when Jesus ascended into heaven and will continue until his return. The tribulation will significantly intensify in the time period immediately prior to Jesus' second coming. The Church is simultaneously living in the tribulation and under the authority and power of Jesus' millennial reign. We believe that the "rapture" (Latin for "lifted up") will take place when Jesus comes at the end of time. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18). We do not teach a "pre, mid or post tribulation rapture." We believe in a God who will accomplish his plan and purpose at the end of time regardless of the various views of the Body of Christ. We believe that the Church's time and energy is best spent on ensuring that our faith is "prepared" for all circumstances, focusing on Kingdom work, and the evangelistic/missional commission given to the Church rather than on the uncertainties of end time prophecies. (Included on our Church website in the "What We Believe" section.)