

# Having Biblical Expectations in Counseling

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**Introduction** - "What do you expect to get out of these sessions?"

## **I. The Structure of the Already and the Not Yet**

### **A. The Two Ages (Chart)**

#### **C. The Already (the Present)**

##### **1. The already of the Kingdom**

Rom. 14:17; Col. 1:13

##### **2. The already of salvation**

New creation – 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15

Resurrection (regeneration) – Eph. 2:7; Col. 3:1; Rom 8:11

The Spirit –

First fruits – Rom. 8:23

Pledge – Eph. 1:14

\*Both images of the Spirit display an already and not yet perspective

Adoption – Gal. 4:4-7

Justification – Rom. 5:1

The powers of the age to come have invaded this present age.

#### **B. The Not Yet (the Future)**

##### **1. The Not Yet of the Kingdom**

1 Cor. 15:20-28

##### **2. The Not Yet of salvation**

New creation – glorification – resurrection

- 2 Pet. 3:13; 1 John 3:1; Phil. 3:21

Adoption - Rom. 8:23

Justification – Gal. 5:6

#### **D. The present tension**

##### **1. We are living in the "last days" which is the time between inauguration and consummation. E.g., Acts 2:16-17; 1 Cor. 10:6, 11; Heb. 1:1-2**

##### **2. The present tension**

In relation to this present world - 1 John 2:8, 17

In relation to the devil - Col. 2:15 and Heb. 2:14; cf 1 Pet. 5:7

In relation to the flesh – Rom. 6:6; cf. Gal 5:16

## II. Foundational Principles

- A. Salvation (and sanctification) are eschatological realities
  - 1. The work of Christ and the work of the Spirit in this age is an invasion of the age to come
  - 2. Salvation has already been inaugurated, but NOT YET consummated
- B. There is fundamental tension then in living between the already and the not yet.
  - 1. This tension should frame our expectations
  - 2. This tension should prevent an overrealized eschatology i.e., expecting too much
  - 3. This tension should prevent an underrealized present experience of the power of the Gospel and the Spirit i.e., expecting too little

## III. Application to Counseling

- A. What to expect in light of the *not yet*
  - 1. Not yet free from Suffering  
Rom 8:18 – the suffering of this now time (present age)  
2 Cor. 4:17 – light momentary
  - 2. Not yet through with sin  
Gal. 5:17
- B. What to expect in light of *the already*
  - 1. Already a recipient of grace
  - 2. Growth and transformation  
Rom. 6:15-22
- C. Counseling with an eternal perspective  
Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 1 Pet. 1:4-5; Rev. 21:1-4

# Two AGES – The Already & The Not Yet

