

Lesson 17: The Age to Come

Introduction

We Christians realize that the most important parts of our lives are those that make an impact for eternity. The study of God and his relations to, purposes for, and work within the created universe- Matters! Welcome to our Link Group where we focus on biblical small groups grounded in the teachings of the bible. Our goal is to ground biblical believers and to develop disciples that make disciplines!

According to Scripture, the underlying idea of history is that time and events flow in a series of successive ages toward God's intended culmination (Mt 13:39; 28:20; 1 Co 10:11; Heb 9:26). God distinguishes between succeeding historical epochs and calls on us to be alert to the characteristics of the age in which we live.

Main Content

THIS PRESENT EVIL AGE

"This age" is not only the undetermined period between Christ's first and second comings; it is also the spiritual and psychological state of humanity that ignores God (Gal 1:4).

Its wise men and philosophers reject Christ and are blind to God (1 Co 1:20-25; 1 Co 3:19; 2 Co 4:4).

God has invaded this age through Christ to rescue and transform believers (Eph 6:12; Gal 1:4; Heb 6:5; 2 Co 3:18; 1 Jn 3:2-3).

We are called to live godly lives and not conform to this world (Tit 2:12; Ro 12:2). We experience God's blessings now and in the age to come (Mk 10:29-30; Lk 18:30; 1 Ti 6:19).

THE END OF THIS AGE

History is moving toward God's planned culmination. God will gather mankind for final judgment (Mt 13:40-43; 25:31-46; Mk 13).

For now, God's kingdom is seen in the church, but at the end He will separate good from evil.

THE AGE TO COME

God is the King of the Ages and guides history (1 Ti 1:17; Heb 1:2; 11:3). Though some things were hidden, God has always remained in control.

Jesus revealed God's plan through His sacrifice (Heb 9:26-28).

Believers look forward to resurrection and eternal life in God's purified universe.

Notes adapted from: "Expository Dict. of Bible Words," pgs. 27-29. Lawrence Richards.

Conclusion

As believers, we live in the present evil age but are called to live godly lives. We look forward with confidence to the age to come and God's perfect kingdom.

Link Questions

1. What do you observe on the state of our country today? Is it getting better or the opposite?
2. What are your fears about tomorrow or the future?
3. Do you think the future for believers are well and secure?