Doctrine of Eschatology

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**Doctrine of Eschatology**

The doctrine of eschatology has substantial influence on Christian life and ministry. Eschatology refers to the end times, final death, and end of all things (Shatzer, "Eschatology"). One critical aspect of eschatology is the reality and inevitability of death, as Hebrews 9:27 states, "just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." This reality influences how Christian’s view death, recognizing it as a natural part of life and motivating them to live in a manner that reflects Christian beliefs. Similarly, Christians view the intermediate state as a state of soul sleep (Acts 7:13), which can bring peace and comfort, remove the fear of death, and prepare Christians for the end of time. The doctrine of eschatology also entails the hope in resurrection, a cornerstone of Christian faith, as stated in 1 Corinthians 15:52, "for the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed." This hope assures Christians that death is not the end but rather a transition to judgment and eternal life for the righteous. Christian churches today minister the gospel of eternal life and the kingdom of achievable after death and judgement.

Eschatology also encompasses the second coming of Jesus Christ, and this influences Christians to uphold their righteousness and life in Christ (Shatzer, "Eschatology"). Christians must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him (Matthew 24:44). This expectation influences our daily lives, encouraging us to live in a manner that is pleasing to God and to be prepared for Christ's return. In the Christian ministry, this doctrine influences the urgency of sharing the gospel, making disciples, and preparing for the end times and judgment day. This is also because, with God’s grace, it is impossible to lead astray (Morgan, 519). Additionally, eschatology offers hope for the future because Christians believe that Christ returns to resurrect everyone for judgment, where the righteous will secure the eternal kingdom of God and the wicked will perish forever (Revelation 21:18–21). This aspect also influences the ministry about the kingdom of God, where the righteous are in heaven in the presence of God.

**References**

Morgan, C. W., & Peterson, R. A. (2020). *Christian Theology: The Biblical Story and Our Faith*. B&H Publishing Group.

Shatzer, "Eschatology"

1 Corinthians 15:52

Acts 7:13

Hebrews 9:27

Matthew 24:44

Revelation 21:18-21