
Technology and the Eschaton

- Between now and the end times, we must realize that as the church, we are entrusted with ensuring we view our current reality in light of our immanent _____.
 - We have been told by God's Word which markers indicate a transformed life, and we must recognize those markers in our use of technology
 - An excellent summation of the markers that make up the Christian life: Question #1 of the Westminster Catechism.
 - Q: "What is the Chief End of Man?"
 - A: "To Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever" by the Gospel of Christ Jesus
- So if we know the markers that indicate a transformed life, then we have to run technology through those markers that tell the world to whose kingdom we belong.
 - This is today's main point: **If the chief end of _____ does not serve the chief end of man, it will swiftly _____ at Babylon.**

Reading the Book of Revelation

- First, Revelation has *something* to do with eschatology, but _____ to do with ethics.
 - It must have a claim on those who read it.
 - It challenges us to the core of our being with one question: *whom do we worship?*
- Second, writings can only be written within their contemporary or historical context, as is the case with Scripture.
 - John must use the language of his time.
- Third, the purpose of Revelation is two-sided (like a coin):
 - One side of Revelation is to _____ ("God wins")
 - The other side of Revelation is to **warn** ("_____ wins")
- Fourth, we are not here to answer the question of whether or not the symbols we see in Revelation are symbolic or literal.
 - "This is an unjustified debate. Literal and symbolic both coexist for the purpose of _____. It is not one against the other where symbolic is false and literal is true." – Dr. Dana Harris
- Fifth, John will only ever have the language of his limited experience to describe that which is other worldly.

Revelation 18:1-24

- The City of Babylon
 - The city is not just an innovation, it is the _____ of innovation.
 - When humanity gathers into cities, efficiency becomes the operating philosophy of every individual.

- "...a biblical theology of technology is simply a biblical theology of the city." – Tony Reinke
- Walking Through the Passage:
 - v. 2 – The city of Babylon has fallen and is a wilderness, filled with defilement and danger.
 - vv. 3, 7, 12, 13, 16, and 19 – Outline the extreme wealth that fills this "great" city, and – naturally – of the idolatry that follows this great wealth,
 - The extensive wealth and idolatry that John saw could have – and I would argue, likely – included _____ innovations that he could barely describe.
 - v. 4 – _____ are still living in Babylon
 - vv. 5-19 – Tell the story of Babylon's destruction from multiple angles
 - vv. 8, 10, 17 and 19 show us that the Lord's judgement will be swift.
 - v. 21-24 – Features an object lesson exhibiting the great judgment of God and then depicts the now desolate Babylon, wherein no more music, crafting, milling, light, or matrimony will take place.

The Gospel of Technology vs. The Gospel of Jesus Christ

- Summarizing our observations:
 - First, Babylon is the culmination of the idea of the city – the monument of man's self-sufficiency, craftsmanship and mastery over creation.
 - Second, Babylon has made an _____ of wealth
 - Babylon operates off of its own gospel – "The Gospel of Technology"
 - Third, the Christian is still present in Babylon
 - Fourth, those who aren't aligned with the only Gospel will be destroyed
- The false gospel – the Gospel of Technology – is alive and well today.
 - Babylon and its technology would have you believe that the chief end of man "...is to glorify oneself and enjoy self-sufficient opulence and idolatry forever."

Takeaways

- First, just as God's people were told during the Babylonian exile, we are to "Build houses...plant gardens... Take wives and have sons and daughters..." and "seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile." (Jer. 29:4-7, 10-11)
- Second, we cannot, by our enjoying of the blessings of the city allow our _____ to be altered by the city
 - Our value system, much like our citizenship, is of a different kingdom.
- Third, we will be _____ in the city.
 - Rev. 18:24
- Fourth, we cannot stop our _____
- Fifth, we await with anticipation the New Jerusalem
 - Rev. 21:9-12