

Doctrine of Last Things

When we began looking through our Doctrinal Statement, we identified four important areas where our present statement lacked definition:

1. Baptism & Lord’s Supper: ordinances, not sacraments
2. Creationism: that is, a Young Earth, non-evolutionary point of view
3. Eschatology (dispensationalism, premillennialism, pretribulation Rapture)
4. Marriage and Gender issues

In our discussions, we covered points 1, 2, and 4. Today we turn to point 3.

Our Statement	FBFI Statement	BWM Statement	Toronto Baptist Seminary Statement
<p>We again note that we have no explicit statement concerning Eschatology in our statement.</p>	<p>Section 12. Last Things: We believe in the imminent rapture of the church to Heaven followed by a seven-year period of tribulation upon all the Earth. At the end of the period of tribulation, Jesus Christ shall come back to Earth in power and glory with His Church to establish the promised Davidic Kingdom. He shall reign for one thousand years during which time peace and righteousness will cover the earth, Satan shall be bound, and Israel shall be established in her own land. At the end of this glorious reign, Satan shall lead a rebellion against Christ, shall be defeated, and shall be forever banished to the Lake of Fire. The wicked dead shall be judged at the Great White Throne, and shall be condemned to everlasting conscious punishment in the Lake of Fire. The righteous shall be in eternal conscious blessedness in the presence of the Lord (Jn 14.3; Mt 24.21; Rev 19.11-16; 21.1-15; Ezek 39.25-29; 1 Thess 4.17).</p>	<p>11. Last Things:</p> <p>We believe in the imminent rapture of the church to Heaven followed by a seven year period of tribulation upon all the Earth. At the end of this period of tribulation, Jesus Christ shall come back to Earth in power and glory with His Church to establish the promised Davidic Kingdom. He shall reign for one thousand years, during which time peace and righteousness will cover the earth, Satan will be bound, and Israel shall be established in her own land. At the end of this glorious reign, Satan shall lead a rebellion against Christ, shall be defeated, and shall be forever banished to the Lake of Fire.</p> <p>The wicked dead shall be judged at the Great White Throne and shall be condemned to everlasting conscious punishment in the Lake of Fire. The righteous shall be in eternal conscious blessedness in the presence of the Lord (John 14:3; Matt. 24:21; Rev. 19:11-16; 21:1-15; Ezek. 39:25-29; 1 Thess. 4:17).</p>	<p>XI. Of the Righteous and the Wicked</p> <p>We believe that (a) there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; (b) that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; (c) while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; (d) and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting penal suffering of the lost.</p> <p>XIII. Of the Resurrection, Return of Christ and Related Events</p> <p>We believe in the literal bodily resurrection of Christ, that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, that after manifesting Himself for forty days to His disciples, He ascended to His Father’s right hand, where, as our Great High Priest, He ever liveth to make intercession for His own. We believe that according to His promise He will come again without sin unto salvation, that His coming will be personal, visible and glorious, as it is written in Titus 2:13-14:</p> <p>“Looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”</p>

Observations:

1. The Toronto Seminary statement is amillennial. Our views depart from theirs significantly at this point.
2. The FBFI and BWM statements are clear outlines of what the Bible says concerning the end times.
3. Key concepts to maintain in the Doctrine of Last Things:
 - a. The imminency of Christ’s return

- b. The certainty of Christ's reign on the earth
- c. The restoration of the Kingdom to Israel
- d. The final judgement and the destiny of the wicked and the righteous

Suggestion:

Last Things

We believe in the imminent rapture of the church to Heaven followed by a seven year period of tribulation upon all the Earth. We believe that at the end of this period of tribulation Jesus Christ will return to the earth in power and glory with His Church to establish the promised Davidic Kingdom upon the earth. We believe that Jesus will reign for one thousand years, during which time peace and righteousness will cover the earth, God will bind Satan, and will establish the nation Israel in her own land. We believe that at the end of this glorious reign, Satan will lead a rebellion against Christ, that Christ will defeat him and that God will forever banish him to the Lake of Fire.

We believe that God will judge the wicked dead at the Great White Throne and will condemn them to everlasting conscious punishment in the Lake of Fire. We believe that God will welcome the righteous into eternal conscious blessedness in the presence of the Lord

Ezekiel 39.25-29; Daniel 9.24-27; Matthew 24.21; John 14.3; Romans 5.9; 1 Corinthians 15.51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4.14-17; Titus 1.13-14; Revelation 3.10; Revelation 19.11-16; Revelation 20.1-15; Revelation 21.1-8

^{Tit 2.13-14} looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.