

Definitions Matter

I need to express my frustration regarding what can be used by *darkness* to mislead (deceive) folks into substantive consequence along the lines or theme of *ill-preparedness*.

Before I do, though, I should communicate this:

The reason WHY we bring these *watchmen-on-the-wall* warnings is tied to our devotion to God's Truths and our commitment of love to help folks be **prepared** based on a CORRECT eschatological foundation. Correct readiness / watchfulness requires this: One must have a correct end-time perspective, one based on biblically defined terms. We care folks walk God's True path given all the false appeals today.

Here's our warning: There are popular end-time views in many churches today which are trying to *save face*. Some active advocates who promote these views **know** their view is weak, biblically speaking. Instead of confessing the problems of the view they hold, some try to cover the concerns and teach their position with a different emphasis. Is this wise? Should we not discern this attempt to hide the weaknesses of some of the popular end-time views today?

For example ...

Some advocates of failing views are seeking to *save* their treasured tradition by switching to different appeals. Instead of emphasizing the main tenet of their positions – in one case, that the Rapture event will take place before the tribulation, the antichrist and God's holy wrath – some of them employ *novel* ideas and/or faulty definitions of crucial end-time terms to get around their flawed viewpoint.

Two terms – though there are many – will be highlighted in this handout.

Tribulation Instead of emphasizing what the Word of God actually teaches about end-time tribulation, they redefine the term in order to align their definition(s) with the eschatological view they hold.

These folks often define "tribulation" as Daniel's 70th Week. They typically define the "Tribulation Period" as outlined in Revelation 6 – 19. The definitions above are incorrect. Yes, tribulation takes place in these contexts, to be sure. But that does not warrant their incorrect definitions of "tribulation" and the "Tribulation Period."

A simple and a thorough study on what the Word of God ACTUALLY teaches will show the *teachings* immediately above are NOT taught in Scripture.

Nowhere do we find in the Bible that end-time tribulation **IS** Daniel's 70th Week. Nowhere do we find in the Book of Revelation the teaching that the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls **represent** the Tribulation Period. NOWHERE. We need to apply Bible-based definitions to important end-time words.

Wrath Instead of emphasizing the big-picture Truth about God's "wrath," some deny the many passages which teach God's wrath does indeed, on occasion, come upon His wayward people.

Some of these folks go on to define end-time "wrath" as Daniel's 70th Week. They often define the "Wrath of God" to be that which unfolds in chapters 6 – 19 of The Revelation. The definitions above are incorrect. Yes, wrath takes place in some of these chapters, to be sure. But that does not justify their incorrect definition of "wrath."

A simple and a thorough study of what the Word of God ACTUALLY teaches on this matter of wrath will demonstrate the *teachings* immediately above are NOT taught in Scripture.

Nowhere do we find in the Bible that end-time wrath of God IS Daniel's 70th Week. Nowhere do we find in the Book of Revelation the teaching that the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls **represent** the Wrath of God. NOWHERE. Once again, we need to apply Bible-based data to define important end-time words.

NOTE :

Yes, we here at Endurance Ministries affirm I Thes. 1:10 and I Thes. 5:9 which teach God's people are not appointed to / destined for God's wrath but we go on to ask, "How is 'wrath' defined in these key passages?" Yes, we affirm Revelation 3:10 which teaches the persevering Church will be kept from the hour of trial (which many believe to be the *Tribulation Period*), but we go on to ask, "How is 'the hour of trial' **biblically** defined?"

Given the information provided by some of these well-meaning folks – information highlighted above – some teach the tribulation and great tribulation period represent the end-time wrath of God. A question is appropriate at this juncture:

Is the following equation explicitly biblical? *Tribulation + Great Tribulation = God's Wrath*
The equation above is NOT taught in Scripture.

Other things **are** taught – found in the pages of holy writ: God's end-time wrath is clear. Tribulation is explicitly forewarned. In *black and white*, readers can find the Seals, Trumpet blasts and the Bowls of wrath addressed in God's Word. Deception, apostasy, persecution, birth pains, the antichrist, etc., etc. **are** found revealed in Bible pages.

What one does NOT find stated in God's Word are these things:

1. *End-time tribulation & great tribulation = God's end-time Wrath;*
2. *End-time tribulation = Daniel's 70th Week and the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls;*
3. *The end-time Wrath of God = Daniel's 70th Week and the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls.*

No explicit Bible evidence can be found to support 1 – 3 above. If one wanted to rebut our claim here, all one would have to do is to produce explicit Bible data showing 1 – 3 can be found taught in God's Word.

Once again, it's time to do the *Berean* thing. As we do so, let's better discern the difference between actual Bible data VS. Bible interpretation, inference and/or theological (opinion) appeal.

In conclusion: Definitions are crucial! Let's build our end-time viewpoints on the actual data of Bible Truth, not on faulty definitions, interpretation and/or poorly evidenced (though still popular in many churches today) end-time extra-biblical traditions. Our Lord Counsels against **unbiblical traditions** in Mt. 15 & Mk. 7.

Okay, it's that time again: Let's go back to the Word for *grace for today and bright hope for tomorrow!*

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