

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Video Lecture Series

by Rev. William Macleod

## STUDY GUIDE

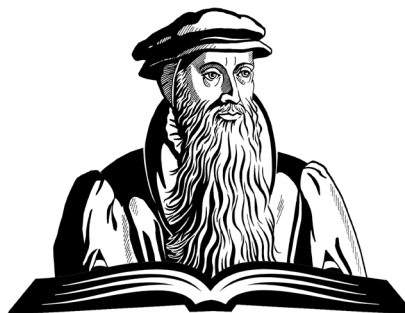
*Module 7:*

**ESCHATOLOGY—**

**THE DOCTRINE OF LAST THINGS**

*Lecture 7:*

**THE SECOND COMING AND  
THE RESURRECTION**



The John Knox Institute  
of Higher Education

## **John Knox Institute of Higher Education**

*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

© 2021 by John Knox Institute of Higher Education

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means for profit, except in brief quotations for the purposes of review, comment, or scholarship, without written permission from the publisher, John Knox Institute, P.O. Box 19398, Kalamazoo, MI 49019-19398, USA.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

Visit our website: [www.johnknoxinstitute.org](http://www.johnknoxinstitute.org)

Rev. William Macleod, recently retired minister in the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), serving 45 years at Knightswood Free Church, in Glasgow, Scotland. In addition, he was for many years the editor of the denominational magazine, *The Free Church Witness*, and was Professor of Systematic Theology and Principal of the Free Church (Continuing) Seminary, in Inverness, Scotland.

[www.freechurchcontinuing.org](http://www.freechurchcontinuing.org)

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

by Rev. William Macleod

## STUDY GUIDE

### Module 7

## *Eschatology—the Doctrine of Last Things*

1. Introduction to Eschatology
2. The Doctrine of Death
3. Events Leading to the Second Coming
4. Interpreting the Book of Revelation
5. The Jews
6. Dispensational Premillenarianism
- 7. The Second Coming and the Resurrection**
8. The Doctrine of the Judgment
9. The Doctrine of Hell
10. The Doctrine of Heaven

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

by Rev. William Macleod

## STUDY GUIDE

*Module 7:*

Eschatology—The Doctrine of Last Things

*Lecture 7:*

## The Second Coming and the Resurrection

### ***Introduction***

We have, in past lectures, looked at some of the events which must precede the second coming of Christ. For example, we believe that the Jews, as a people, must first be converted to Jesus as the Messiah. This, in turn, will lead to worldwide blessing upon the church. Others argue that Christ could come anytime. We must be careful not to be too dogmatic. Prophecy is notoriously difficult to interpret. When Christ came the first time, most people were wrong in their expectation.

**Theme:** *The Second Coming and the Resurrection*

### **I. When Will Christ Return?**

1. Only God knows; even Jesus, when on earth, did not know; Matthew 24:36.
  - a. But he warned there would be dark days just before the end.
2. Revelation 20:7–10, there will be great apostasy and persecution before Christ returns.
  - a. Following the millennium, there will be a falling away.
  - b. Satan will raise a great army against the church,
  - c. The church will be surrounded and threatened extermination
  - d. Fire will come from heaven and destroy Satan's forces.
  - e. Then there will be final judgment.
  - f. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire.

***Questions:***

1. How should we understand what Jesus said, in Matthew 24:36? “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”

---

---

---

---

2. What does Revelation chapter 20 tell us about the things that will happen just before the second coming of Christ?

---

---

---

---

3. How does Revelation chapter 20 raise questions about the Amillennial view of the end times?

---

---

---

---

**II. How Will Christ Return?**

1. Christ’s return will be glorious, clear, and obvious to all.
  - a. A great shout of an archangel, heard all over the world, a voice to raise the dead.
  - b. The trumpet of God will sound!
  - c. He will come suddenly, unexpectedly.
2. Christ will bring with him the souls of his people who have been in paradise with him.
3. The dead believers will be resurrected first with new bodies.
  - a. Incorruptible, immortal bodies, fit for heaven.
4. Living believers will be transformed too, and join with them in the clouds.
  - a. Together they will meet Christ in the air and be with him forever.
5. The resurrection of Christ is central to Paul’s preaching.
  - a. Christ’s resurrection guarantees the resurrection of believers.
  - b. Christ has conquered death. He has complete victory.
6. Christ delivers up his kingdom of power to the Father.

### *Questions*

1. What do the Scriptures tell us about the glorious appearing of Christ at his second coming? What will be some features of his appearance?

---

---

---

---

2. Will the dead saints miss out on the return and appearance of Christ in his glory? How does the Apostle Paul answer this question?

---

---

---

---

3. How important is the resurrection of Christ in Paul's theology?

---

---

---

---

4. What are the victories and benefits that we partake of in Christ's resurrection? What are the implications for the saints at the resurrection?

---

---

---

---

5. What did Rev. Macleod mean when he said, "Beware of learning from those around you, rather than from the Lord"? How can we apply this guidance and put it into practice?

---

---

---

---

6. From what Scripture tells us, what will be the features of the resurrected body?

---

---

---

---

7. What comforts can the believer derive from the second coming of Christ and the resurrection at the end of the world?

---

---

---

---

### **III. The Resurrection of the Wicked**

1. It will be a terrifying time for the wicked, they will fear when the trumpet sounds.
  - a. Many will hide themselves, and cry out for rocks to cover them.
  - b. Many who never prayed will now pray, but it's too late.
  - c. Their consciences will condemn them.
  - d. Every mouth will be stopped.
2. There will be no escape.
3. The wicked will be resurrected with bodies that cannot die, suited for eternity in hell.
  - a. Their conscious souls were suffering in hell.
  - b. Their souls will enter into their new bodies, and they will feel pain.

#### ***Questions:***

1. Will the wicked escape from the second coming of Christ? What does the Scripture tell us about what happens to the wicked on that day?

---

---

---

---

2. What will the resurrected bodies of the wicked be like?

---

---

---

---

### **IV. Other Things About the Resurrection**

1. The bodies of believers are precious and should be treated with respect.
  - a. The bodies of believers are united to Christ, even after they die.
    - 1) *The Westminster Larger Catechism*, Question and Answer #86.

- b. The mutilation of bodies is wicked.
- c. The body should be buried in the grave.
- d. No matter what happens to the body after death, God will raise it on the last day.
- 2. When resurrected, believers' bodies will be perfect, glorious, like Christ's body.
  - a. Deformed or damaged bodies will be made perfect.
  - b. Elect infants who die in the womb will be in heaven as adults.
  - c. There will be no marriages or special relationships in heaven.
- 3. All of creation will also be transformed, or born again.
  - a. All of creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.
  - b. Paul speaks of it, Romans 8:19–23.
  - c. Peter speaks of it, encouraging those who wait, 2 Peter 3:8–9.
- 4. The world will end with the second coming of Christ.
  - a. The heavens will be rolled up like a scroll.
  - b. The earth will be consumed with fire.
  - c. The new heavens and the new earth will be brought forth.

***Questions:***

1. How should we treat the dead bodies of believers? Why?

---

---

---

---

2. At the resurrection, what will happen to the bodies of believers who have been deformed?

---

---

---

---

3. Will there be marriage in heaven? How do we know?

---

---

---

---



4. What will happen to the bodies of the elect ones who die as infants, or die in the womb? What will their resurrected bodies be like?

---

---

---

---

5. What will happen to this world on the day of the second coming of Christ, according to Paul?

---

---

---

---

6. How did Peter answer the mockers of his day, who complained that Christ had not yet returned? Does this apply to us today as well?

---

---

---

---

### **V. Self-Reflection**

Please read and meditate upon 2 Peter chapter 3, thinking about the second coming of Christ. How should this affect our thinking and direct our minds? Since this world is passing away, what should our focus be, and what should we be laboring for? How should these things affect our daily lives? These verses call us to seek the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and make it our great priority to gain and grow in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). How might you live better in light of all these things we've learned about the end times and eternity to come?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---