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The Biblical Basis of Christian Counseling for People Helpers: Relating the Basic Teachings of
Scripture to People's Problems (Pilgrimage Growth Guide)

16. The New Age in Counseling

The chapter contrasts the New Age movement's vision of the future with the Christian doctrine of the Kingdom of God, then argues that a biblical view of the future — the 'end times' — has direct, practical value for counseling. It surveys what Scripture says about death, judgment, Christ's return, and the new creation, and shows how a future-oriented ('eschatological') perspective helps counselees find hope and move beyond past pain.

Key takeaways

- New Age thinkers and Christians both expect a coming age of harmony, but they split on how: New Age says the problem is ignorance and the cure is enlightenment about our 'divine potential'; Christianity says the problem is sin and rebellion, and the cure is repentance and faith in Christ.
- The Bible condemns divination, sorcery, and psychic practices as sin, yet gives believers real hope about the future.

- The Kingdom of God is both future and already present: Christ launched it at His coming, believers taste it now, and it will arrive in fullness when He returns.
- Counseling too often gets stuck in the past, keeping people in a victim role; the New Testament looks forward and calls us to face the past honestly, then press on.
- Death is a real enemy but a conquered one; Scripture distinguishes physical, spiritual, and 'second' (eternal) death, and promises believers life with Christ.
- Most Christians agree on the certainties even while differing on end-times details: Christ will return visibly and without warning, the dead will be raised, everyone will be judged fairly, and God will make a new heaven and earth.
- 'Eschatological' counseling (Warren Heard): guide a wounded client to view past and present from the standpoint of her healed future identity in Christ, which frees her to forgive.
- Biblical instruction always builds the command (imperative) on what is already true (indicative) — we act rightly because of who we already are in Christ.

Passages worth keeping

“The therapeutic process can best facilitate the Spirit's work by having an eschatological orientation... she can now forgive because she is able to envision her stepfather as God does and see herself as whole in Christ.”

Shows the chapter's core claim — a future-in-Christ perspective changes how present wounds are healed.

“It's not life or death... This is my job, not my life.”

Charles Barkley's line illustrates seeing present troubles from a larger perspective, the counselor's goal.

How it connects

The chapter reframes 'end times' doctrine as pastoral, not speculative: because the Kingdom's outcome is certain, counselors can offer hope in present suffering and help people live and grieve in light of eternity — a real alternative to the fortune-teller's false certainty it opens with.

Scripture referenced

- **Deuteronomy 18:10-14** -- God condemns divination and consulting mediums
- **Luke 17:20-21** -- The Kingdom of God is 'within you' — present, not only political
- **Romans 8:1** -- Believers are no longer under condemnation
- **Philippians 3:13-14** -- Forget what is behind, press on toward the future
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** -- Christ's return and the raising of the dead
- **2 Peter 3:10-13** -- The new heaven and new earth