

The Augsburg Confession *Talking About Faith with Family and Friends*



Article XVII: Of Christ's Return to Judgment

Discussion: For eternal salvation, does a person only need to have faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, or do they need to demonstrate their faith with actions of love, service, humility, forgiveness, etc.?

"At the Consummation of the World Christ will appear for judgment, and will raise up all the dead; He will give to the godly and elect eternal life and everlasting joys, but ungodly men and the devils He will condemn to be tormented without end.

They condemn the Anabaptists, who think that there will be an end to the punishments of condemned men and devils.

They condemn also others who are now spreading certain Jewish opinions, that before the resurrection of the dead the godly shall take possession of the kingdom of the world, the ungodly being everywhere suppressed."

Importance: The Roman Catholics agreed completely with Luther's teaching of Christ's triumphant return to earth at the end of time. The only disagreement was with the Anabaptists and sects that taught there would be a period of time (millennium) without persecution. The Lutheran teaching is that the end of the world will come without warning and that people need to be prepared. Below are the teachings of Luther about the end of the world.

Christ will return on the Last Day (and not 1,000 years before the Last Day!), **return visibly, and in glory to judge the living and the dead in righteousness** (Acts 1:11; 10:42).

He will raise all the dead (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:12-58; Luke 20:37-38; 1 Thessalonians 4:14).

He will give the godly and elect eternal life and everlasting joy (John 5:29; 6:40; 10:28; 1 John 2:25; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Psalm 16:11; John 17:24).

He will condemn the ungodly and the devils to everlasting torment (Matthew 10:28; 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; John 5:29; Jude 6; Revelation 20:10; 21:8; Isaiah 66:24; Matthew 8:12).

At Christ's return on the Last Day, this present universe will end (Matthew 24:3, 14; 13:39; 1 Corinthians 15:24; 2 Peter 3:10; Matthew 5:18; Luke 21:33; 2 Peter 3:7-13; Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9).



Ascension of Jesus by Francisco Camilo, 1651



The Last Judgment by Michelangelo, 1536-1541