

The Vine This Month

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Photos:
Various Sources

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Dialect Ministry Zoom
Meeting



HOM Editorial

About a month ago, my colleague asked me what is the Lutheran stand on

End Times. Is it Premillennialism, Postmillennialism or Amillennialism. Perhaps she was wondering is the world coming to an end already with the pandemic and the failing economy. Amillennialism does not teach a literal thousand-year earthly reign of Christ. Christ's second coming will be one event at which time He will, in the words of Martin Luther, "raise up me and all the dead, and give unto me and all believers in Christ eternal life". The eschatology (*a part of theology concerned with the final destiny of humanity*) presented in The Lutheran Confessions is clearly Amillennialist.

She was keen to know if there was going to be a "Rapture" and all Christians can avoid the Tribulation. I told her that Lutherans believe that when Christ comes again, that is the end, and there is no "Left Behind" situation while the world goes on for another 1000 years. I also qualified that I am not an expert in End Times and there are so many people having strong beliefs in the other 2 views.

David Pawson (21/5/20) and Ravi Zacharias (19/5/20) both went home to the Lord recently. God is calling back two of His sons to glory in heaven. It is expected that faithful servants within the body of Christ will show collective endeavours in putting hands to the ploughs to continue the good works of Pawson and Zacharias. Rev Anthony's sermon on "Doing the greater things" clearly conveys the message about God's calling on every Christian to rise up as they are empowered to impact lives.

Speaking about the coronavirus situation, Ravi Zacharias said believers must "combine our faith and trust in God with wisdom" when responding to the crisis. Trust in God, he said, but heed the advice to keep yourself and others safe. Read John's article where he tackles a tough question like Ravi Zacharias used to do.

In the last issue of The Vine, I mentioned a taxi driver whom I gave a Bible to. Last week, he picked me up again and he mentioned he read about the creation story. He found it hard to believe. I suggested that he should start from John chapter 3. I pray that God's Word will come alive for him.

Martin Cheah