

## **KNOW YOUR FAITH XX**

Pastor Don Marxhausen

### **End Times Continued**

As the second to the last Sunday of the church year, the theme of the eschaton (Last Things) continues from last week. There appears in the bible two major themes involved in a final judgment. From the First Lesson (Zephaniah,) we hear news of wrathful judgment. Other end times teachings emphasize great joy and peace.

There is, of course, much speculation connected with a judgment in linear time. What seems to be common in many such references is the need to be reflective and to be on guard against spiritual complacency.

The word "talent" is used in the sense of gifts God gives to each person and to use those talents to the best of one's ability and in service to others as Jesus was/is "the Man for others." For people who are self-unaware (85% according to a NPR article,) the issue of identifying with the poor, the naked, those in prison, the ill, the lonely, etc. is a difficult matter.

For many, the victim is blamed for being a victim. Judeo-Christian in the imperatives of social covenant or Christian calling asks us to see those who are "other" from us as brothers and sisters for whom care and consideration must be given. Justice (Different from law), mercy, forgiveness, acceptance, understanding, and more are the works that proceed from an experience of grace for our own lives. All of these things come into focus at the end of our lives and potentially at the end of time.