

# FAQ 50

## Defining One's Position Is Not Always Dogmatism

### Q #50 Don't you occasionally write in a dogmatic tone? (You really do.)

Thank you for asking because we have not looked at it in that light before **but** we do see how one could possibly come to that conclusion. As a result, a word of clarification is in order.

Here's our answer ... how we have, to date, approached the defining of the *Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering* position:

We have been most clear that we are offering a Bible-honoring **proposal** for prayerful and exegetical consideration. We've made this and other similar statements numbering almost 100 times in our many ministry resources – web, radio, presentations and written materials. At times when we are in the mode of defining the position, **YES**, we speak in a *matter of fact* manner. This should **not** be misconstrued to mean we are intending to present dogma but simply that we are stating the tenets of the position. There is a huge difference between the two presentations.

The following represents a good sample as to our overall approach. We hope this will bring helpful clarity whereby we are not further misunderstood.

In order to offer a very biblical end-time position to the Christian community for its consideration, here are some of the major highlights of the *Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering* position:

1. It is PreMillennial – Upon Jesus Christ's return to the earth, He will reign for 1,000 years before the final judgment which will then issue in the eternal state.
2. While PreMillennial, the position holds a very different view of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week than most Pre-Millennialists.
3. There is a three-part expression of the *Return* of Jesus Christ:
  - a. Jesus Christ's initial appearing (Mt. 24:30; Rev. 6:14-17)
  - b. Jesus Christ's gathering up of His Church (Mt. 24:31; Jn. 14; I Cor. 15:51,52; I Thes. 4:13-18; Rev. 11:15-19 & 14:14-16)
  - c. Jesus Christ's return to the earth (Mt. 25:31; Rev. 19)
4. The Church will go through the tribulation as defined by Mt. 24:9-22.
5. The Church will not incur the wrath of God as it is raptured prior to the Bowls of Wrath.
6. The position's name reflects the explicitly biblical nature of the view. (We sincerely believe this position actually has the least amount of interpretive baggage of the end-time positions offered today.)

7. Divine Truth is affirmed while at the same time a lower degree of certainty is also claimed due to the mandatory steps required when pulling together a biblical theology on eschatology. We confess interpretive decisions have been made - as is the case in every eschatological position.

The 1 - 7 list above could be (wrongfully) interpreted as evidence of a dogmatic posture concerning the tenets outlined. **But** the list is **not** meant to be dogmatic. It is simply stating, as a matter of fact, the details of / the tenets of the position. We confess the line may appear blurry at times as a result of our purpose(s) in writing. We hope for our Family in Christ's kind and gracious responses - while at the same time bringing ones which critically evaluate the FTRG position in light of clear, biblical data - as we continue expressing our various definitions and concerns.

We hope this provides sufficient clarification as to the nature of our appeals.