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## **The Relevancy of John Wesley's Understanding of Eschatological Living for the Malaysian Christians in 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

To Malaysian Christians, 21<sup>st</sup> century is a challenging age for us. On the one hand, as citizens, we are expected to contribute in nation building through the realisation of National Vision 2020. On the other hand, we are to wrestle with issues which resulted from the realisation of this Vision : (i) the justice of extracting wealth from the natural resources; (ii) the equality of distributing riches among the people.

How shall Malaysian Christians wrestle with these issues while realising this Vision ? Are John Wesley's teachings of help for rethinking and re-mapping the way of Christian witness in Malaysia ? If yes, how are his teachings of relevance for the Christians in 21<sup>st</sup> century ? This is what this paper attempts to explore.

Why shall we revisit John Wesley ? The answer is simple: His rich pastoral-theological advice is still of value even in 21<sup>st</sup> century. But, how are his 18<sup>th</sup> century teachings of value to us ? In answering this, I shall borrow H. Richard Niebuhr's typological classification to examine how Wesley's Understanding of Eschatological Living is appropriate to be translated for contemporary reference.

In view of the above premise, I shall outline this paper as below:

1. The nature of the Vision 2020 of Malaysia
2. Christian Responses to Vision 2020
3. John Wesley's Understanding of Eschatological Living
4. H. Richard Niebuhr's typological approach as bridge
5. An Evaluation of the contemporary relevancy of John Wesley's Understanding

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