

Introduction to Paul

- Paul's background
- Paul's eschatological framework

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Paul's Background

- Familiar territory
- Which letters to include? (pseudonymity)
 - Ephesians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus
 - Sometimes Colossians, 2 Thessalonians
- Paul didn't write systematic theology.
- Threefold background: Jewish, Hellenistic, Christian.

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Paul's Background

- His "conversion" led him to draw certain conclusions and reevaluate his theology.
 - Jesus was alive (bodily resurrection).
 - God has vindicated him as Messiah.
 - Jesus is the fulfillment of God's covenant promises.
 - Acceptance of Jesus is the key to covenant membership.
 - Jesus' death must be reevaluated.
 - Jesus' followers were true Israel.

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Eschatological Framework

- Paul's view of salvation history?
 - 1 Corinthians 15:20-28
 - Romans 8:9-11, 18:25
- Eschatological dualism (like Synoptics):
 - Jesus is the first fruits of the resurrection.
 - The kingdom (reign) of God is advancing.
 - Mortal bodies but alive in the S/spirit.
 - The Spirit is the first fruits of eternal life.
 - Adoption is "already/not yet."

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Eschatological Framework

- The kingdom shares in this tension.
 - Future inheritance (1 Cor. 6:9, 10; 15:50).
 - Eschatological glory (1 Thess. 2:12).
 - Comes when Christ returns (2 Tim. 4:1).
 - But also present reality (Col. 1:13; Rom. 14:17).
- Christ will reign until he has subdued all of his enemies, including death (1 Cor. 15:26).
- The new creation (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15).
- Live by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:12-13).

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