

## Pauline Eschatology

- Corporate/cosmic eschatology
- Personal eschatology

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## Corporate Eschatology

- Expectation of the return of Christ:
  - *Parousia* (presence, coming, arrival): 1 Thess. 4:15; Phil. 2:2.
  - *Apokalypsis* (unveiling, revealing): 2 Thess. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:7; cf. Phil. 2:11.
  - *Epiphaneia* (appearing): 2 Thess. 2:8; Titus 2:3; used of first coming also (2 Tim. 1:10).

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## Corporate Eschatology

- The “rapture” in 1 Thess. 4:13-18
  - Dispensationalism: secret, pretribulational.
  - Rapture from Latin *raptus*, caught up.
  - Purpose is to comfort the Thessalonians.
  - Resurrection of the dead and transformation of the living at Christ’s return.
  - This is not a secret event.
  - Welcome party for the returning victorious king.

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## Corporate Eschatology

- The “man of lawlessness” in 2 Thess. 2:3-8
  - Time of rebellion/apostasy before the end.
  - An evil ruler who opposes God.
  - Whatever is restraining him will be removed.
  - This is something they would have known.
  - The appearing of Christ will destroy this figure.

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## Corporate Eschatology

- Final salvation will extend to all creation.
  - God reconciles all things to Christ (Col. 1:20).
  - All things summed up in Christ (Eph. 1:10).
  - All will confess Christ as Lord (Phil. 2:11).
  - Creation will be redeemed (Rom. 8:19-23).
  - Christ will reign until he defeats all enemies including death – in resurrection (1 Cor. 15:25).
  - Christ completes his mission and turns over the kingdom to the Father.
  - God will be all in all (1 Cor. 15:28).

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## Personal Eschatology

- The intermediate state: 2 Cor. 4:16-5:10
  - Between death and resurrection.
  - Did Paul change his mind since 1 Cor.?
  - Believers will be with Christ at death.
  - See also Phil. 1:23.
- Resurrection (1 Cor. 15; Acts 24:15)
  - Our bodies will be like Christ’s.
  - Happens at the return of Christ.
  - Those who are alive will be transformed.

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## Personal Eschatology

- The judgment: Rom. 2:5-16; 2 Cor. 5:10
  - Everyone will face judgment.
  - Judgment according to works.
  - Held accountable for what you know.
  - Judgment through Christ.
  - Believers will not be condemned (Rom. 8:1; 1 Cor. 3:12-15).
  - Some recompense for deeds done.

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## Personal Eschatology

- The destiny of unbelievers
  - Separation from God (2 Thess. 1:9).
  - Those who don't obey the gospel .
  - Experience wrath (1 Thess. 5:9; Rom. 2:5, 8).
  - They are “perishing” already (1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor. 2:15; 4:3).
  - But judgment is not yet complete (2 Thess. 2:10; Rom. 2:12).
  - Death (Rom. 6:23) and destruction (Phil. 3:19).
  - Romans 1: God's wrath in action.

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