

26. Paul's Eschatology and the Second Coming

1. Overview of Paul's Eschatology

- 1) Paul viewed eschatology not merely as a future event but as the ongoing fulfillment of redemptive history that has already begun.
- 2) The phrase "Already but not yet" is central to understanding Paul's eschatology.

2. Eschatological Tension: "Already" and "Not Yet"

- 1) With Christ's resurrection, the end times have already begun,
- 2) But Paul emphasized that final judgment and full restoration are yet to come.

3. Paul's Teaching on the Second Coming

- 1) The return of the Lord Jesus is the culmination of history and the hope of believers.
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 and 1 Corinthians 15 describe the order, content, and comfort of the resurrection and Second Coming.

4. Final Events According to Paul

- 1) The resurrection of the dead
- 2) The transformation of the living saints
- 3) Meeting the Lord in the air
- 4) Final judgment and eternal separation or salvation)

5. Implications for Believers

- 1) Paul connected eschatological doctrine to ethical living, perseverance, and hope.
- 2) His letters repeatedly urge believers to live as those who await the Lord's return.