

12. Eschatology I – "Already and Not Yet"

1. Overview:

The phrase "already and not yet" captures the central tension of New Testament eschatology.

God's Kingdom has already come through Christ's first coming, yet it is not yet fully realized until His return.

This course explores this theme through Pauline theology and its implications for Christian life.

Weekly Structure

Week 1: Introduction to Eschatology

- 1) Definition and categories of eschatology
- 2) Jewish background and Hellenistic views
- 3) Comparison: Jesus and Paul on the end times

Week 2: The Kingdom – Already Present

- 1) Jesus' teachings on God's Kingdom
- 2) The early church's understanding
- 3) Pentecost and the present reality of the Kingdom

Week 3: The Kingdom – Not Yet Complete

- 1) The promise of the Second Coming
- 2) Characteristics of the future Kingdom
- 3) Theology of waiting and suffering

Week 4: Paul's "Already" Perspective

- 1) Justification and redemption as completed
- 2) Present life in the Spirit
- 3) New creation in Christ

Week 5: Paul's "Not Yet" Perspective

- 1) Ongoing struggle with sin and flesh
- 2) Hope of resurrection
- 3) Final judgment and glorification

Week 6: The Tension Between "Already and Not Yet"

- 1) The believer's status vs. reality
- 2) Life between holiness and weakness
- 3) Enduring in hope

Week 7: The Church's Eschatological Role

- 1) The church as an outpost of the Kingdom
- 2) Mission and proclamation
- 3) The eschatological community

Week 8: The Holy Spirit and Eschatology

- 1) The Spirit as "first fruits" and guarantee
- 2) Power for eschatological living
- 3) Hope through the Spirit's guidance

Week 9: Eschatology and Christian Ethics

- 1) Responsibility in light of the end
- 2) Sanctification and godliness
- 3) Living with the Day in view

Week 10: Eschatology and Suffering

- 1) Present suffering vs. future glory
- 2) Comfort and hope amidst trials
- 3) Romans 8 as a central text

Week 11: The Second Coming

- 1) Signs and timing
- 2) Watchfulness and readiness
- 3) Practical implications

Week 12: Conclusion and Integration

- 1) Summary of "already and not yet"
- 2) Practical eschatology
- 3) Biblical-theological overview