

End Times: A Study of Paul's Epistles

**Bible Discussion at Campus Lutheran Church
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Paul's letters express an eschatological faith from beginning to end. In particular, 1 Thessalonians lets the community (and us) know that the return (parousia) of Jesus would occur in the near future, certainly within Paul's lifetime:

1 Thess. 4:15-18:

1 Thess. 5: 1-11: Paul uses end of the world imagery to console his readers who are worried about Christians who have met their death before the "last day."

Paul's other letters express an "end times" faith as well:

2 Cor. 5:1-11: What does Paul say about his perception about when the last days will come? See also Phil. 1: 19-26.

1 Cor. 7:25-31: Does Paul stay firm in his convictions about the end of the world?

Gal. 6: 14-15: But is the future the sole interest for Paul in his letters? Let's see. What importance does he attach to the cross? Is Jesus' resurrection a sign that the end is near?

2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5: What kind of pledge guarantees full "payment" of salvation in the near future?

Finally, notice that there is a tension developing between how to view the end times. What shift has taken place:

Eph. 2:6:

Col. 2:12:

Col. 3:4

Eph. 4:30

Next Time: A Study of Revelation and End Times.