

**Eschatology I.5: Paul**  
**Covenant Presbyterian Church, Tullahoma - Adult Sunday school**  
Sunday, January 14 2024

**Lesson 12: Pauline Eschatology and Salvation**

“We think and theologize out of the present into the future, because our base of existence is in the present... To the early Christians a different orientation had been given... The ultimate things were brought forward in their consciousness, in order that in light of these they might learn the better to understand the provisional and the preparatory. For the ultimate is in a very important sense the normative... The light of the world to come cast its clarifying and glorifying radiance backward into the present... Living, then, in a world of semi-futurities... *the thought of the earliest Christians should have moved backwards from the anticipated attainment in its fulness to the present partial experiences* and interpreted these in terms of the former.”

Geerhardus Vos, *The Pauline Eschatology* (italics, underlines added)

I. Platonism vs. Secularism vs. Christianity

- Visible/Material world // Invisible/Spiritual world – Present world // World to Come

II. New Creation - 2 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 6:16

“There has been created a totally new environment, or, more accurately speaking, a totally new world, in which the person spoken of is an inhabitant or participator.” Vos

III. Salvation - Rom. 5:9,10; 8:24,25; 13:11

Complete and absolute salvation comes only **at the end**. But we experience it and enjoy its blessings in the present (Eph. 2:5,8).

IV. Justification - Rom. 8:33,34

“The Apostle made the act of justification by all intents, so far as the believer is concerned, **a last judgment anticipated**.” Vos (bold, underlines added)