



Session 3: Paul’s Theology

READ:

Acts 16, 22-23; Romans 8

CONNECT: Before and After

Share an event or experience that changed your life in a significant way (i.e., something that made a “before and after” difference) and explain *how* it changed your life.

WATCH: Paul’s Central Theological Outlooks

As you watch the video, fill in the following:

A. The Reformation Perspective

“In the centuries prior to the Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church taught that salvation required both God’s grace and human merit. According to these teachings, justification—becoming righteous in the eyes of God—is a long process by which God _____ grace into the believer.”

The Reformers concluded that in Paul’s view, justification is “_____ all at once and entirely apart from human works.”

B. The Eschatological Perspective

“Eschatology comes from the Greek *eschatos*, which means _____ or _____ and the word *logos* which means word or _____.”

The Old Testament divided world history into what two great ages:

From Paul’s point of view, what has inaugurated the age to come?

List aspects of the age to come that are already a present reality	Note one thing that will be different when God’s kingdom reaches its fullness
1.	
2.	
3.	

DISCUSS

- What is something that stood out to you from the video?
- Summarize the difference between justification and sanctification according to Paul.
- The Judaizers in Paul's day taught that believers needed to add the good work of circumcision to their faith. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that believers need to add the good works of the sacraments to their faith. What are some examples of good works people around you think they need to add to their faith in order to be saved?
- According to Paul, the transition from this age to the age to come is not an immediate change from one age to the next. Instead, it involves a period of overlap when both ages occur simultaneously. How have you experienced the "already" of God's Kingdom? Where do you long for the fullness of God's kingdom to come?

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART: Christian Hope

- Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.
 - What blessings was Paul already experiencing in the midst of his sufferings?
 - What blessings was he looking forward to in the future?
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APPLY:

- Think about a situation that feels hopeless. What is something from today's session that can bring hope to that situation?
- What can help you fix your eyes on what is unseen and eternal when you need encouragement?
- How has this study encouraged you in your faith?
- Where has it challenged you? What do you want to do as a result?