

Course of Study

January 11	Introduction to Eschatology
January 18	Dichotomy or Trichotomy, Death, The Intermediate State
January 25	A Look at Key Apocalyptic Texts
February 1	Interpretive Perspectives on Revelation
February 8	Revelation 20: Brands of Premillennialism
February 15	Revelation 20: Postmillennialism & Amillennialism
February 22	What about the Jews?
March 1	Summary & Significance

January 11 Introduction to Eschatology

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

- I. Avoid the twin dangers of Obsession and Indifference.
 - A. Eschatology is only a small part of biblical doctrine.
 - B. The Bible does include many significant details about the end.
 - C. Our doctrine of salvation (soteriology) has important implications for last things.
- II. Combine Humility with Historical Awareness.
 - A. The heat of one's passion ought to be consistent with the light of his understanding.
 - B. So far, all the attempts to date the end or identify the antichrist have been wrong (see reverse).
 - C. Dogmatic attachment to a particular order of events or particular disputed details has been a mark of cults and aberrant groups throughout history.
 - D. Which interpretive disagreements ought to cause division among communions? What *theological* cost does a particular eschatological view have?