

X. ESCHATOLOGY

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SESSION 10



For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?

1 Thessalonians 2.19 (NRSV)

1. Outline Paul's argument in *Romans* regarding his eschatological program and how it has been misunderstood (see Participant Reader).
2. Discuss what Crossan calls the "fundamental agreement" between Jesus and Paul regarding their message of anti-imperialism.
3. How have Christian "end times" proponents appropriated the metaphor of Roman political protocols *Parousia* and *Apantesis* for their own purposes?
4. Define and discuss the term "eschatology."
5. Define and discuss the term "apocalyptic."
6. How do the programs of John the Baptist and Jesus differ?
7. Discuss the idea of the "general resurrection of the body" and how it parallels Jesus' program of a Kingdom that has already begun.
8. Crossan discusses the "communal" resurrection as understood by the early church. Explain.
9. Where do you see this information influencing your spirituality? The church? The world?