

Lesson 39
Glorification: The Consummation of Salvation
Part I

And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified,
and those whom he justified he also glorified. - Rom 8:30

“Glorification is the final phase of the application of redemption. It is that which brings to completion the process which begins in effectual calling. Indeed it is the completion of the whole process of redemption. For glorification means the attainment of the goal to which the elect of God were predestinated in the eternal purpose of the Father and it involves the consummation of the redemption secured and procured by the vicarious work of Christ” — John Murray

“We all profess that we are bound for heaven, immortality, and glory: but is it any evidence that we really desire it if all our thoughts are consumed about the trifles of this world, which we must leave behind us, and have only occasional thoughts of things above?” — John Owen

“God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper; and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean.” — Jonathon Edwards

“Real salvation is not only justification. It cannot be isolated from regeneration, sanctification, and ultimately glorification. Salvation is an ongoing process as much as it is a past event. It is the work of God through which we are ‘conformed to the image of His Son’ (Rom 8:29, cf. 13:11).” — John MacArthur

“The good of [Rom] v. 28 now receives further definition; the good is achieved when believers are conformed to the likeness of Jesus Christ... This does not mean that all reference to the present era should be excluded, for the genius of Paul’s theology is that the eschaton has invaded the present evil age. The transformation into the image thus begins in this age (cf. 2 Cor 3:18; Col 3:10) but is completed and consummated at the resurrection.” — Thomas R. Schreiner

The Westminster Confession of Faith states:

“At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed: and all the dead shall be raised up, with self-same bodies, and none other (although with different qualities), which shall be united again to their souls forever” (XXXII/ii). The Westminster Shorter Catechism questions 37 and 38 also addresses this aspect of glorification: “What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death? The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection? At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed to the full enjoying of God to all eternity.”

Review of Previous Lessons on the “Roots of Salvation”:

Now, never forget that the roots of godliness are entirely and completely a gift of God’s sovereign grace! Meaning an unmerited salvific work of grace that was unilaterally instigated and providentially accomplished by God alone. Remember:

That *regeneration* is the divine act of bringing life to the spiritually dead so that those who were once blind and deaf with hard hearts can now see and hear the Word with soft and submissive hearts (Dt 30:6; Jerm 31:31-34; Ezek 11:19-20; 36:22-27; 37:1-14; Jn 1:12-13; 3:1-8; 6:63; Eph 2:4-5; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Jn 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18; 2 Cor 5:17-18; 1Pet 1:3).

That *justification* is the divine act where God declares believing sinners instantaneously free from the eternal penalty of sin and positionally righteous by faith in the vicarious, finished and perfect life, death, and resurrection of Christ alone (Gen 15:6; Lev 16:15; Isa 53:5-6, 11; 61:10; Job 4:17; 15:14; Psalm 143:2; Jerm 23:6; Rom 1:17-18; 3:20-28; 1 Cor 1:30; Phil 3:9; Rom 4:6, 20-25; 5:1; 5:12-21; 8:28-30; 10:3-4; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:24; Gal 2:16; 3:21-26).

That *reconciliation* is the divine act where God, as the ultimate agent, proactively brings together those who were once separated as enemies and Himself now makes them friends (Gen 3:8, 22- 24; Isa 59:2; Jn 3:18-20; Rom 1:18; Rom 3:10-18; Eph 2:3; 2:12; 5:6; Js 4:4; Rom 5:10-11; 8:7; 2 Cor 5:18-19; Eph 2:16; 4:18; Col 1:20-21; 1 Pet 3:18).

That *redemption* is the divine act where God, through the sacrificial death of His own Son, buys the believing sinner back from the slave market of sin as He takes them from the kingdom of darkness and places them into the kingdom of His dear Son (Lev 25:47-55; Job 19:25; Ps 19:14; Isa 44:6; 47:4; 59:20; Jer 50:34; Mt 20:28; Mk 10:45; 1 Tim 2:6; Gal 3:13; 4:4-5; 1 Cor 6:20; 1Pet 1:18-19; Acts 20:28; Rev 5:9; 14:3-4; Eph 1:7; 4:30; Col 1:14; Heb 9:15; Rom 6:18, 22-23; 8:23;).

That *propitiation* is the divine act where God utterly appeases and satisfies His own holy wrath against sin through personally and fully judging it by the perfect and substitutionary sacrifice of His sinless Son (Ex 32:7-10; 34:6-7, 14; Numbers 16:41-50; 25:1-9; Nahum 1:2-3; Rom 3:25; Heb 2:17; 1 Jn 2:2; 4:10).

That *adoption* is the divine act where God makes the believing sinner more than a friend but a full member of His own family with all the subsequent rights and privileges as a child of God (Jn 1:12-13; Rom 8:15-17; Eph 1:5; Gal 4:4-7; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Rom 8:23; 1 Pet 1:4; Rev 21:7; Lk 11:1-13; 12:29-32).

That *election* is the divine act of God choosing specific people for salvation based solely on His own unmerited love, just pleasure and eternal purpose (Ps 65:4; Acts 13:48; Rev 13:8; 17:8; 21:27; Jn 17:24; Mk 13:22; Lk 18:7; Eph 1:4; 2 Tim 1:9; 2:10; 2 Thess 2:13; Tit 1:1-2; Phil 1:29; 1 Pet 1:2, 20; Jonah 2:9; Jn 1:11-13, 3:6-8; 1 Cor 1:29-30; Tit 3:5; 1 Jn 2:29; Dt 7:7-8; Ps 115:3; 135:6; Isa 46:8-10; Dan 4:34-35; Eph 1:11; Rom 8:33; 9:9-13; 11:28; 2 Pet 1:10).

These marvelous and undeserved works of sovereign grace become the divine anchors and providential pillars that provoke my proactive pursuit of holiness and guarantee its ultimate success! Let’s consider the final aspect of God’s sovereign grace given in/at salvation through the person and work of Christ...*Glorification!*

Study Questions for Glorification: “The Consummation of Salvation”

1. Read Col 3:1-4 and explain the crucial connection between the present life and the afterlife in training oneself to godliness? See if you can identify the past-present-future realities in Col 3:1-4 and how they intersect with and instigate pursuing godliness (Col 3:10)?

2. Now to begin getting a feel for how paramount the future state, hope, and glory of the believer was in the life of Paul look up these passages: Rom 3:23; Eph 1:4; 3:13; 4:13; 5:27; 1 Thess 4:16-17; 5:23-24; 2 Thess 2:13-15; Phil 1:19-26; 3:17-4:1; 1 Cor 2:7; 15:50-58; 2 Cor 3:18; 4:16-18; 5:1-10; Rom 5:1-5; 8:23, 28-30; Col 1:28; 1 Tim 4:8, 5:11-14; 2 Tim 2:10; 4:6-8; Titus 2:11-14.

3. After considering those previous passages explain some specific ways Paul was constantly considering the believer’s future life while helping others live the Christian life?

4. In training oneself to godliness how critical is it to grow in and focus on the future hope of glory (Jude 24; 1 Pet 1:3-9; 2:11-12; 4:12-16; 5:10-11; 2 Pet 1:3-4; 3:11-14; 1 Jn 3:1- 3)?

5. From the previous passages give at least three ways growing in a biblical understanding will further equip you to train yourself to godliness.

6. Now, as we seek to gain a better understanding of glorification, let us to consider at least 10 specific truths about glorification.
 - 1.) According to Romans 8:28-30 & 1 Cor 2:7, glorification is ultimately the work of Who?

 - 2.) According to 1 Cor 15:12-19, glorification is what to the Christian Faith?

 - 3.) According to Rom 8:28-30 & Col 3:10, glorification is ultimately what in relationship to salvation and also what in relationship to the believers connection to Christ?

4.) According to Heb 12:22-24, glorification deals with what aspect of redeemed man?

5.) According to Rom 8:23, Phil 3:20-21, 1 Cor 15:12-32, & 1 Jn 3:1-3, glorification deals with what other aspect of man?

6.) According to 2 Cor 3:18, 2 Thess 2:13-14, & Eph 5:26-27, glorification is also tethered to the ongoing process on what?

7.) According to Rom 5:1-5 & 2 Cor 4:16-18 glorification is meant to provide what to the believer?

8.) According to Ps 16:9-11, Job 19:25-27, Dan 12:2-3, & Heb 11:10,16, glorification (resurrection) was also a hope for?

9.) According to Jn 11:24 and Acts 24:14-15, glorification was an expectation of who?

10.) According to Mt 5:8, Jn 5:28-29, 6:39-40, 44, 54, & Jn 17:22-24, glorification was also a big deal to who?

At this point how would you define glorification according to all that you have learned from Scripture?

What affect does the truth of this blessed doctrine have on your personal pursuit to train yourself to godliness?