

Lesson 40
Glorification: The Consummation of Salvation
Part II

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

“God planned for His people this ultimate salvation, this final glorification. He did not merely plan the first steps, and then wait to see what would happen; He planned it right through to the end. The daring statement, ‘them he also glorified’, reminds us of this. In other words we are considering here what is called the doctrine of the final perseverance of the saints. Their arrival in the glory everlasting is guaranteed by this one great fact that it is God’s purpose with respect to them.” — Martin Lloyd Jones

“Grace is but glory begun, and glory is but grace perfected.” — Jonathon Edwards

“There is nothing more powerful to bring men to Christ...and there is nothing that is a greater encouragement to the godly, that they may willingly and with cheerfulness pass through the afflictions of this life, that they may pass through the evil world with their hearts raised up to heaven.” — Thomas Goodwin

“We have been made to mirror God’s holiness and righteousness back to God, not so we may benefit (though there are immeasurable benefits to personal godliness) but so God will be glorified in beholding Himself in His creatures.” — John Hannah

“Nothing gives the believer more joy than to see God glorified.” — R.C. Sproul

“The biblical doctrine of ‘immortality,’ if we may use that term, is the doctrine of glorification. And glorification is resurrection. Without resurrection of the body from the grave and the restoration of human nature to its completeness after the pattern of Christ’s resurrection on the third day and according to the likeness of the glorified human nature in which he will appear on the clouds of heaven with great power and glory there is no glorification. — John Murray

“The first and most sublime part of the glory of heaven is the full and sweet fruition of God. We are apt to think the happiness of heaven is in being free from pain and misery; but the very essence of happiness is the enjoyment and fruition of God. God is an infinite inexhaustible fountain of joy; and to have him, is to have all.” — Thomas Watson

“Thine image, Lord bestow, thy presence and thy love; I ask to serve thee here below, and reign with thee above. Teach me to live by faith; conform my will to thine; let me victorious be in death, and then in glory shine.” — John Newton

“Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be: Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.” — Charles Wesley

Review of what we have already learned about glorification:

In the previous lessons we have learned that *Glorification* is the final divine act in the full application of salvation to the life of the repentant sinner. Glorification is the ultimate culmination, goal, and focus of salvation (Jn 17:22; 1 Cor 2:7; 2 Cor 3:18; Eph 1:3-4; 3:13; 2 Thess 13-15; Col 3:1-4, 10; Rom 3:23; 8:28-30; 1 Jn 3:1-3). This happens as God takes the believing sinner and utterly and finally transforms their unified physical body, heart, and mind into the perfect (glorified) holy image of Christ at the point of bodily resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-58; 1 Thess 4:16-17; Phil 3:20-21; Eph 5:27; Col 3:4). Thus, glory is always the goal in salvation, meaning God's ultimate glory through the believer's final glorification by God's sovereign grace (Ps 79:9; Eph 1:3-14; Rom 11:33-36; 1 Cor 1:30-31; 10:31; 2 Tim 2:10)! This eternal perspective motivates a bold hope and persevering pursuit as one strives for godliness amidst pain, problems, and persecutions (Rom 5:1-5; 8:17-18, 28-30; 2 Cor 4:16-18; 2 Tim 4:6-8).

For the maturing believer (Js 1:2-4), this happens as one learns to keep his eyes on the eternal (what God is doing for him), while struggling, growing, and living through the temporal (what is currently happening to him)! Glory is not only God's greatest goal and the very reason why He does everything (Ps 115:1; Isa 42:8; 43:7; Rom 11:33-36; Col 1:27), but God's glory must also be the believer's greatest goal in everything (Rom 12:1-2; 1 Cor 10:31; 2 Cor 5:9; Eph 5:10; Col 3:17; 1 Thess 4:1; 1 Pet 4:11; 2 Tim 2:4, 10)! While we will not, and cannot, ultimately glorify God until our glorification, God's glory is our greatest passion and pursuit both now and forever more. Therefore, if glory is the goal for the believer, then killing sin in Christ centered godliness while walking in faithful obedience to the Scriptures is the God given means for fulfilling that mission on earth (Jn 17:17; Eph 4:13-5:21; Col 3:1-17; 1 Pet 1:13-25; 2 Pet 3:18; Gal 5:16-26). Of course we must never forget that all of this "training ourselves to godliness" (1 Tim 4:7) is humbly done by us as God is also at work in us through His merciful and mysterious sovereign grace (Phil 2:13-14)! Therefore, never forget that the Christian life is never about your personal comfort but always about your personal conformity into Christ! Brothers, focus joyfully on where you are going while living faithfully where you are! Delightfully long for heaven while purposefully living on earth!

Study Questions for Glorification: The Consummation of Salvation Part II

1. Now let's continue growing in our understanding of how paramount the future state, hope, and glory of the believer was in the life of Paul. Remember the following versus from our last lesson: Rom 5:1-5; 8:17-18; 23-25; 28-30; Col 1:28; 1 Tim 4:8, 6:11-14; 2 Tim 2:10 cf. 2:4; 4:6-8; Titus 2:11-14.

2. After considering all the passages from Paul over the last few studies, explain how future glory is tethered to:

- 1.) Salvation's purpose
- 2.) Sanctification's plan
- 3.) Sufferings work
- 4.) The servant's greatest delight on earth

Going deeper, let's look up a few more passages that will help us glory in the future glory!

3. 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)?

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

- 1.)
- 2.)
- 3.)

5. Since glorification involves the death of the "unredeemed body" it is important that we gain clarity on a number of levels.

What happens to believers when they die? Do they go into some form of soul sleep, purgatory, or do they go immediately to heaven (Acts 7:56-60; Lk 23:43; Phil 1:22-24; 2 Cor 5:8; 2 Tim 4:6-8; Rev 6:9-11; 7:9-10)? See also these passages (Mt 17:3; Lk 16:19-31; Heb 12:1 might be a further hint cf. 12:23; Gen 5:24; 2 Kings 2:11; Ps 23:6 cf. Ps 16:10-11; 17:15; 115:18; Job 19:25-27; Dan 12:2-3).

6. What does Paul mean when he says that not even death can separate us from the love of God (Rom 8:38-39 cf. Ps 23:4)?

7. What happens to the physical body of believers upon death (Gen 2:17 cf. 5:1-31 “and he died”; Rom 5:12; 6:23; 1 Cor 15:42-53; 2 Cor 5:1-5; Rom 8:10 cf 8:23-25; 1 Thess 4:15-18 cf. 1 Cor 15:20-23; Heb 9:27)?

8. So, from these verses (1 Cor 15:42-58; Phil 3:20-21; 1 Thess 4:16-17; Col 3:4; Rom 6:8-10; Heb 7:16; Rom 8:11) and a number of the passages already listed earlier, answer these questions:

- 1) Why is glorification not complete until the believer’s resurrection?
- 2) What happens to the person’s spirit at the believer’s resurrection?
- 3) According to Col 3:4, Titus 2:13, 1 Pet 1:3-9, and Phil 3:20-21, when will glorification finally take place?
- 4) God’s plan for salvation involves the whole person, meaning what?

Therefore, never forget that the Christian life is never about your personal comfort but always about your personal conformity into Christ! Brothers, focus joyfully on where you are going while living faithfully where you are! Delightfully long for heaven while purposefully living on earth!

“The supreme motive in our redemption is not for us to receive anything. Rather, we have been redeemed so that God may receive worship—so that our lives might glorify Him. Any personal blessing for us is a divine response to the fulfillment of that supreme purpose... We are to seek to glorify God before we seek to gain anything from Him. To be concerned primarily with the blessings is to experience salvation in a shallow, self-centered manner.” — John MacArthur