

Salvation Belongs to the Lord (Glorification – Part 2)

Rom. 8:30: **“Those he justified, he also glorified.”** This means that the goal of our “salvation” is glorification. ALL of God’s works to “do good” to his people find their end in glorification. We will see next week that, in Christ, we ARE being “glorified” in this life. AND, as we saw last week, there is GREAT glory at death for the Christian. But, there will also be a finality to our glorification. And of this glorification we are left with an incomparable mystery. And if you remember, I had two questions last week: 1) What is yet to come? And, 2) When will these things happen. We find both questions answered in our confession (See statement). When will glorification happen? The Bible says that glorification will find its completion at the coming of the Lord Jesus, what we call the 2nd coming. And then to answer the 1st question: *“What is to come,”* we see 3 truths that describe WHAT will happen. We looked at one last week: At his coming, there will be a resurrection of the dead. This is often called the “2nd” resurrection. I think we see this truth throughout Scripture, but it is explained clearly by Paul in 1 Cor. 15:50-53: **“I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”**

Today I have two more truths concerning what will happen at Jesus’ 2nd coming: 1) The Final Vindication of God; and 2) The Creation of a New Heavens and a New Earth. So let’s continue:

1. The Final Vindication of God. To use the term vindicate means that God will be justified in his judgment. And this will be the final judgment of God. We see this clearly in our confession! At his coming, our confession says, *“that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.* Brothers and sisters, in his providence, God has been judging individual sin and corporate sin since the fall of Adam. But, ALL those judgments will find their ultimate fulfillment in the final judgment at the coming of Christ.

And, let me point out that even in our verse: **“Those he justified, he will also glorified,”** we see the justice of God. God is just! He is JUST and EVERYTHING He does is just. And He cannot be unjust. Nor can He leave some “untuned” injustice in this world. It is kind like the mother who tells the 5-year-old son, wait until your father gets home, which means, justice will be served. God WILL and He MUST bring a just end to ALL things. This will happen at the 2nd coming of Christ. Let me read some verses that speak of God’s final judgment. Dan. 12:2: **“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”** In John 5:25-29 Jesus says, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of**

God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”

In Matt. 25, starting in v. 31, Jesus says, **“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”** And then, later in that same passage (v. 41) we read, **“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”** And then, finally in v. 46: **“And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”**

Now, because of sin that permeates this world, I believe that even now, as Paul says in Rom. 1:18: **“the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.”** And, since the fall of Adam, God HAS brought, and WILL bring great judgments upon individuals and nations because of sin. We see this most clearly in the OT as God judged his own sinful people, Israel, as they broke his covenant. And this happens decisively in 70 AD. And, there are many examples of judgments against the nations of this world. BUT, all of those judgments and all future judgments will find their culmination at the final judgment when Christ comes again.

So, what about glorification? The answer is that God will be glorified (God will be vindicated) in both judgment and wrath upon sinners. And, God will be glorified in his mercy as he poured out his judgment upon his only Son. And those who are found in him, will be glorified. And this final degree of glory will happen at the 2nd coming of Christ. At his coming, God will be vindicated. If you notice, our confession says that all these take place on “principles of righteousness.” All of the sins of the world will be FINALLY judged; God will be vindicated! God will be glorified in the righteous punishment of those who carry their sin to the grave. And, in Christ, God will be glorified in the final salvation of his people, those whose sins have been judged at the cross of Christ. Let me make clear that judgment comes to all! But, glorification comes to those who have been justified already. And as Christians, we will say forever, **“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”** (Rom. 8:1). ***“Those he justified, he also glorified.”***

Application: Because of the person and work of Christ, we have confidence in judgment. 1 John 4:15-19 says, **“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with**

us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”

2. Glorification is associated and bound up with the renewal of creation. One of the places we see this truth is found in Rom. 8:20-21. Paul writes: **“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”** And, as we saw last week, this event is tied with our glorification, PARTICULARLY the fact that the dead in Christ will receive glorious bodies (see 8:23). And it makes sense that these two events happen together. Why? Because we will be given a glorious body that will be FIT for the new heavens and earth. Our glorification is linked to a renewed cosmos. This will be a new heavens and a new earth in which there will be no more curse, but in which righteousness will have complete possession and “undisturbed habitation” (J. Murray). Rev. 21:22-27 says, **“And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”** There are sooo many passages in the Bible that speak of this time. Why? Because this is the end to which God is moving all of history.

Let me make some comments and applications for the remainder of our time.

Truth: What will happen at the consummation of all things is great mystery. As I shared last week, it is like looking over the edge at the great barrier reef. Or, Reepchip in the *Final Battle* heading over the wave into Asland’s land. Or, watching a car pull away into the horizon. This means that the Bible uses “normal” “regular” language, real people and places and events that we CAN understand, to describe what is coming. For example, Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. This was a real place, a beautiful garden temple where God met with them. This happens NOW in Christ. But, the glory we now have and experience in Christ will be fulfilled ultimately in the new creation. The Land of Canaan was described as a land flowing with milk and honey. And Israel actually inherited that land. But, as we continue to read the Bible, we see that Canaan was and is a picture of God’s glory spreading throughout the entire earth. And this Land of Canaan is used to point us to a greater land, the new heavens and the new earth. Jerusalem was the place where God established his throne through King David. Today, Christ is the fulfillment of this type. AND, later in Revelation what do we see? We see a “heavenly city” coming out of heaven. This is none other than the heavens and the new earth.

I must point out that we have now in this earth, as beautiful as the sunsets and the mountains and the beaches and even the stars in the heavens, are miniscule compared to what is coming in the new heavens and the new earth. This is one reason creation is so magnificent, even now. I think of this creation as a snow globe. I love to shake these little picture of a town or a ship or whatever as snow floats around with pretty light. In the same kind of way, brothers and sisters, this earth is in a like one of those globes . . . compared to what this place will be at the consummation of all things, where we will also find the promise of our words, ***“those he justified, he also glorified.”*** As Paul says, **“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us”** (Rom. 8:18).

Truth: In Christ, we have the firstfruits of the new creation now. Because Jesus is risen from the dead and has ascended to heaven, so will we be raised with him at his coming. If Christ is not risen from the dead, I cannot preach what I am saying about final glorification. And for now, we have the Holy Spirit who is the guarantee of our inheritance. Rom. 8:23 says, **“And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”** And 1 Cor. 15:20-24: **“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.”**

Application: If you are not justified, you will not be glorified. Instead, God’s justice will be carried out in judgment upon you. This is why the cross of Christ is so essential for our justification and glorification (speak to the gospel).

Application: Until that time, we wait; and not just us, those who have gone before us. Even concerning the elect angels, they wait as well. And, all of creation waits for this glorious event. We wait for our new bodies. We wait for God (and us) to be vindicated. We wait for a new heavens and a new earth. And, what we wait for is BEYOND COMPARISON. And all of this is God’s design, particularly that JESUS Christ will receive what HE deserves as the glorious Son of God, and what HE has accomplished as glorious Son of Man! This is WHY we wait! This is WHY we wait with great anticipation, with great expectations, and even with groaning because of sin death and the devil that remains in this world. So, Press on.

Application: With this in mind, it seems clear that the hope of future glory is great motivation for perseverance and hope in this life. Turn with me to 1 Cor. 4:7-15: **“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are**

always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God."

Application: The truth of final glorification at the 2nd coming of Christ must affect us here NOW, where we live. Looking to that day must affect our godliness, our prayer lives, everything we do. And, why shouldn't they? Is there anything more glorious than, "*Those he justified, he also glorified.*" Is there any subject more glorious than GLORY itself (can't wait for next sermon). New glorified bodies, no longer groaning. The FINAL vindication of God, as ALL his judgments come to an end. Finally, the curse will be no more! A NEW HEAVENS and a NEW EARTH, the most glorious place for our most glorious bodies. No wonder Christians from the beginning, and Abraham and family, and even Adam, the first man have been waiting for this time, the 2nd coming of Christ. It will be the culmination of our glorification. (And this is not what happens at death!) The degree of glory that will take place at his 2nd coming is beyond comparison!

Let me end for today with Tit. 2:11-14: "**For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.**"