

Theme: The consummation of our salvation will happen at the return of Christ, when our bodies will be raised from the grave and transformed to be like Jesus' body, and all of creation will be renewed. At that point we and all of the renewed creation will experience the glorious freedom of full redemption and will radiate the glory of God.

## I. Quick Review of Salvation

- A. Justified - freed from penalty of sin
- B. Sanctified - increasingly freed from power of sin through work of the Spirit
- C. But this can create real tension - as good as it is, we certainly hope there is more!
- D. This is why Paul speaks of our glorious future
- E. Today - Glorification - freed from the presence of sin

## II. Our Present Struggle & Our Hope of Glory!

- A. There is a real struggle for us now
  - <sup>18</sup> I consider that **our present sufferings** are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us... <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but **we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly** for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:18, 23
  - 1. Our present sufferings - persecution, ridicule - and struggle against sin
  - 2. We groan at present, eagerly waiting for more
  - 3. The presence of the Spirit makes this groaning worse - we now know things are not right!
  - 4. Our present life has struggle and suffering and sin!
- B. There is a real hope for something better

<sup>24</sup> For in this **hope** we were saved. But **hope** that is seen is no **hope** at all. Who **hopes** for what he already has? <sup>25</sup> But if we **hope** for **what we do not yet have**, we wait for it patiently. Romans 8:24–25

- 1. Hope occurs 5 times in 2 verses!
  - 2. There is hope - something much better is coming!
  - 3. We have been given much - but there is something far greater we do not yet have
- C. Yet our present struggles don't compare to our future!  
I consider that **our present sufferings are not worth comparing** with the glory that will be revealed in us. Romans 8:18
    - 1. Not only is our future greater - present struggles are not worthy of comparing with it!
    - 2. The man who said this suffered - rejection, bearing , prison, stoned to death - and eventually martyred
    - 3. Yet all of that does not compare - our future must be glorious!
  - D. Our future - glory
    - <sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with **the glory** that will be revealed in us... <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the **glorious** freedom of the children of God. Romans 8:18, 21
    - 1. A key word for describing our future - glory
    - 2. Glorious freedom - literally 'freedom of the glory'
    - 3. This is why theologians speak of final stage of salvation as 'glorification' - glory is a key part of our future

4. What is this 'glory' of which Paul speaks?

### III. Understanding Glorification

A. Glorification occurs when Christ returns & we see God as He is

1. Not really in this text - but central to glorification  
When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:4

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. **But we know that when he appears**, we shall be like him, for **we shall see him as he is**. 1 John 3:2

2. Glorification - the consummation of our salvation - occurs at the return of Christ and not before

3. Glorification - our faith and hope will be sight - we shall see God as He is! That will be glory!

B. Glorification - our bodies are raised from the dead and changed

1. Glorification - our very bodies are changed  
I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with **the glory that will be revealed in us**. Romans 8:18

a. Some translations have revealed to us - 'in us' is better translation here

b. We will not just behold God's glory - we ourselves will be glorified

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly **as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies**. Romans 8:23

a. Glorification occurs at the redemption of our bodies

b. Our actual bodies will finally receive the fulness of the salvation Christ brought to us

2. Glorification - our bodies are raised from the dead and changed

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, **he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies** through his Spirit, who lives in you. Romans 8:11

<sup>28</sup> Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. John 5:28–29

<sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15:51–54

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Philippians 3:20–21

3. The Christian hope has always been not just life after death, but specifically the resurrection of the body

To recapitulate, then: Shall that very flesh, which the Divine Creator formed with His own hands in the image of God; which He animated ... after the likeness of His own vital vigour; which He set over all the works of His hand, to dwell amongst, to enjoy, and to rule them; which He clothed with His sacraments and His instructions; whose purity He loves, whose mortifications He approves; whose sufferings for Himself He deems precious;—(shall that flesh, I say), so often brought near to God, not rise again? God forbid, God forbid, (I repeat), that He should abandon to everlasting destruction the labour of His own hands, the care of His own thoughts, the receptacle of His own Spirit. Tertullian, *The Resurrection of the Flesh*, Chapter 9.

Equally monstrous is the error of those who imagine that the soul, instead of resuming the body with which it is now clothed, will obtain a new and different body...for it were most absurd that bodies which God has dedicated to himself as temples should fall into corruption without hope of resurrection. What? are they not also the members of Christ?.. That part of man, therefore, which the heavenly Judge so highly honors, what madness is it for any mortal man to reduce to dust without hope of revival? John Calvin, *Institutes*, Book III, Chapter 25, Section 7

4. The Christian hope of glorification is nothing less than that this body, now so weak and frail, will be raised and made like Christ's own glorified human body
5. Friends that will be glory!

C. Glorification - creation itself is renewed, purified and restored

1. Creation itself needs to be renewed and purified
  - <sup>19</sup> The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. Romans 8:19–21
  - a. Creation is longing for the consummation to come
  - b. Creation subjected to frustration - placed under curse at the fall [see Genesis 3:17]
  - c. But it will be liberated from the curse - its bondage to decay!
2. Creation's fate is linked to our own - past and future
  - <sup>22</sup> We know that **the whole creation has been groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> **Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan** inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:22–23
  - a. Notice both creation and we - who are distinct from creation - groan
  - b. Also note we both wait eagerly - same word is used in v19 of creation and v23 of us
  - c. Paul uses common OT practice of personification to show that all of creation will be swept up into the consummation of salvation
  - d. Friends when everything is renewed - that will be glory!

D. Glorification - the consummation of God's plan

1. A major motif in Scripture - creation, fall,

redemption, and consummation

2. Some heretics tried to separate these out - they thought matter was evil or unimportant
3. These heretics tried to separate creation and redemption
4. But the universal Christian church said “NO!”
5. What was created was affected by the fall
6. What was affected by the fall is in view in redemption
7. What was created, affected by the fall, will be restored at the consummation
8. God has not abandoned His creation to destruction - it will be restored and brought into glory!

#### IV. Applying the Word

- A. If you do not know Jesus - look to Him
  1. You do not want to miss the glory that awaits us!
  2. The only door to that glory is found in Christ
  3. I urge you with everything I have, look to Christ
- B. If you are a believer - stir up hope in our future!
  1. We should be the ultimate optimists!
  2. God’s will is going to be done - the future is assured
  3. We will see Him as He is - glorious
  4. We will know Him as fully as created beings can - glorious!

5. Our entire being will radiate with His glory!
6. Our bodies will be raised - and all will be fixed
7. Creation will be renewed - glorious!
8. For the first time all will be as it should be - for eternity!

#### Glorified!

Romans 8:18-25  
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I Can Only Imagine  
Jude 1:24-25

24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 1:24–25

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