



Christ Our Hope of Glory

Key idea:

Christians live with confident hope as they look forward to Christ's return: present suffering will pass, all things will be renewed, and we will share in Christ's glory forever.

Key text:

Romans 8:18-25

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ 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. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Key points:

1. Life in this fallen world is full of struggle and suffering, including sin, sickness, and persecution.
2. Christians are called to live in the hope of the great future that awaits us and creation.
3. Glorification occurs at the return of Jesus when our bodies will be resurrected and changed and will radiate with the glory of Jesus.
4. When we are glorified, all creation will be renewed, purified, and restored!
5. Although we can not understand all that awaits believers in eternity, God has revealed it will be beyond anything we have ever experienced in this age!

Discussion Questions:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Some Christians have an “over-realized eschatology” teaching that Christians are free from the sufferings of this present fallen age. Is this true? Does Paul teach that Christians should be free from suffering or that we should expect suffering?
3. What happens if I have an “over-realized eschatology” and expect that as a Christian I will not experience sickness, struggle with sin, disappointment, and suffering in this life?
4. Today many teach that the universe is unalterably winding down and that at some point will cease to exist. As I Christian, how do I answer this idea?
5. Why does the New Testament teach that the return of Jesus is so important? How often do I meditate on Christ’s return? What happens to a Christian or a church that loses sight of the return of Christ in glory?
6. Bret mentioned that the word “glory” originally meant “weighty; of consequence”. Do I tend to think of this age or eternity as more “weighty”? Do I tend to think of the experiences, joys, and beauties of this age as more or less real than those of eternity? How can I grow in understanding that eternity and its joys are more real than those of this age).
7. Why is it important that Christianity does not teach the immortality of the soul but rather the resurrection of the body? What is the difference? Why is it important that my body will be raised from the grave and I will be an embodied being for eternity?
8. Why is it important that the entire creation will be renewed, purified, and restored? How is this different than thinking the creation will be destroyed and replaced with a completely different “spiritual” creation?
9. How does this teaching (and Revelation 21-22) complete the storyline of Scripture? How does it finish what was begun in Genesis?
10. Why is knowing that I am bound for glory important for my present life? How should it change the way I approach my daily life and callings? How should it affect my overall posture toward the inevitable sufferings and struggles of this age?

Practical Applications:

1. Encourage one another: This entire series reminds us of our hope in Jesus. However, this life is full of suffering, disappointments, and grief, so we need to encourage one another to anchor our hope in Christ, not this world.

2. Meditate on the glory that awaits us in our eternal home. As you enjoy your favorite things this week, let them point you to the greater reality of which our current joys are only a shadow.
3. Read C.S. Lewis' sermon "[The Weight of Glory](#)". Take your time in reading it; Lewis packs a lot of deep truth in few words, so this sermon will bear its greatest fruit with multiple slower readings.
4. Listen to the song [On That Day](#) by City Alight to stir our hope of glory in Christ.