

Subject: God's Work in Salvation: Glorification

Scripture: Romans 8:28-30

An official who had just won a special county election said this in his acceptance speech: "I wish to thank the 424 people who promised to vote for me. I wish to thank the 316 people who said they did vote for me. I wish to thank the 47 people who came out last Tuesday to vote, and I wish to thank the 26 folks who actually who did vote for me." That story shows that you can't always count on people to follow through on their word. But you can always count on God to do what He promises to do. When He begins something, He always finishes.

This is not the first time Paul has referred to glorification in Romans.

Romans 5:2 *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

Romans 8:17-18 ¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.* ¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

Romans 8:23 *And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

Then when Paul comes to Romans 8:29-30, he presents these five links in the golden chain of salvation: God foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified. Salvation is anchored in the past (foreknew and predestined). Salvation is anchored in the present (called and justified). Salvation is anchored in the future (glorified). All of these are different works of God that can be studied individually, but they can't be separated from one another. They are all part of God's unbreakable chain of salvation for His people. This is our final message in the series and we are going to take a look at glorification.

1. The CERTAINTY of glorification

This text is probably the strongest statement in the Bible on eternal security. All of God's people are foreknown, predestined, called, justified, and glorified. No one is dropped along the way.

- A. Glorification is the work of God alone – He is in control of all five links in the chain.
- B. Glorification is stated as if already finished – Every work of God is in the past tense.

Philippians 1:6 *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

John 6:39-40 ³⁹ *And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.* ⁴⁰ *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Future glorification of all believers is settled by the will of the Father and the will of the Son.

2. The MEANING of glorification

- *Glorification is the complete and final redemption of the whole person involving the perfection of body and soul, thereby fitting the believer for eternal life in heaven.*

Glorification is the climax or the final chapter of our salvation. To be saved means to be rescued from sin and eventually from this evil world.

- A. Believers have been justified (saved from the penalty of sin)
- B. Believers are being sanctified (saved from the power of sin)
- C. Believers will be glorified (saved from the presence of sin)

Glorification is a part of God's calling.

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you.

3. The TIMING of glorification

Because glorification involves both the soul and the body, it doesn't take place when a believer's soul goes immediately to heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 ⁶ Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: ⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) ⁸ We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

All believers will not be glorified at the same time.

- A. Some believers will be glorified when Christ returns

1 Corinthians 15:22-23 ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

- B. Other believers will be glorified in the 1,000 reign of Christ

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

4. The BLESSINGS of glorification

Glorification is the work of God we are all waiting and longing for.

A. Believers will have a glorified soul and a glorified body

We will finally be able to worship and think and do like we want to without sin or limitations. Our body will be like the resurrected body of Christ.

Philippians 3:20-21 ²⁰ *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹ Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Our bodies will be changed from dishonor to glory, from weakness to power, from mortality to immortality, and from corruption to incorruption.

B. Believers will be with our glorified Lord in our glorified home

John 17:24 *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*

Psalms 73:24 *Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.*

No wonder Paul said that our present suffering can't begin to compare with our future glory.

Romans 8:18 *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 ¹⁷ *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; ¹⁸ While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

Even now God is taking us from one stage of glory to another. Now we are on the path of sanctification on our way to the place of glorification.

Proverbs 4:18 *But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

The glory of God shines on our path while we walk toward our heavenly home where we will see the King in His glory.