Flint Hills Bible Church

**Practical Theology – Glorification**

Soul Care Sunday School

**Introduction:** The final divine act in the application of redemption is **Glorification!**

*“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn (the preeminent one, the rightful heir) among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”* Romans 8:29-30

We have carefully studied key doctrines of the faith, the so called “tion” words: Foreknowledge, election, predestination, justification, calling, regeneration, conversion, repentance and faith, adoption, sanctification, substitution, imputation, perseverance and now glorification. When Christ redeemed us, he did not just redeem our souls (our spirits). He redeemed us as a whole person, and this includes the redemption of our bodies. Christ’s work of redemption will be complete when our bodies will be set free from the curse and the effects of the fall and brought to the state of perfection for which God created them.

*“As children of God we are heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ and so we will soon be glorified together with Christ*” Romans 8:17 “*until then we wait for the redemption of our bodies*” Romans 8:23 and “*for in this hope we were saved*” Romans 8:24  and “*we eagerly wait for it with perseverance*”. Romans 8:25

**Thought Questions:**

* What is your current understanding of the doctrine of glorification?
* Does glorification get the attention, publicity, discussion when compared to other “tion” words and prominent doctrines? Why might this be so?
* Can you see or anticipate how the proper understanding and then then the proper application of glorification can be vital in personal care to your soul and that of your fellow saints?

**Definitions:**

Glorification (**doxazo** from **doxa** = glory) means to render glorious, to cause to have splendid greatness, to clothe in splendor, to invest with dignity, to give anyone esteem or honor by putting him in an honorable position. **Doxazo** used 61x in 53 verses.

Glorification is our great **future tense salvation** which is so certain that in Romans 8:30, Paul speaks of it using the same tense as justification.

The **aorist tense** of glorified speaks of God who sees the end from the beginning and in whose decree and purpose all future events are comprehended and fixed. Once God’s marvelous sequence begins with His foreknowledge of those He would call, it is carried through so inevitably that Paul in this verse speaks of us as “glorified” in the **past tense**. It is already an accomplished fact in the mind and purpose of God. Note that those who are foreknown will all be glorified without loss of a single one.

**Say it in a Sentence:**

*Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like his own.*1

*Glorification is the radical transformation of both the body and the soul of believers, perfecting them in holiness, and thereby fitting them for eternal life on the new earth in perfect communion with the triune God. Murray helpfully describes glorification as “the complete and final redemption of the whole person, when in the integrity of body and spirit, the people of God will be conformed to the image of the risen, exalted, and glorified Redeemer, when the very body of their humiliation will be conformed to the body of Christ’s glory. (cf. Phil. 3:21).* 2

**Old Testament Teaching:**

Job 19:25-26 *For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.*

*And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,*

Psalm 49:15 *But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.*

Psalm 73:24-26 *You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.*

Isaiah 26:19 *Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.*

Daniel 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.*

John 11:23-24 *Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”*

Hebrews 11:10 *For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.*

Hebrews 11:13-16,19 *These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. . . He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.*

**New Testament Teaching:**

1 Corinthians 15:12-58

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

Romans 8:30 *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

Philippians 3:20-21 through 4:1

John 5:28-29, 6:39-40, 17:1,4,10

Romans 8:17 *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

**Supplemental teaching:**

*The final divine act in the application of redemption is glorification. Given its immense importance, it is critical at the outset to distinguish glorification from other eschatological events. It must not be confused with the intermediate state. For those who die in faith before the return of Christ, their souls immediately go to be with the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23). Because glorification involves both the body and soul, it does not take place when a believer’s soul enters the current intermediate heaven but rather at the second coming of Christ. Neither is glorification to be confused with the restoration of the earth. While it is a marvelous promise that the whole earth will be restored (Acts 3:21)—just as creation was cursed as a result of man’s in, so also will it be redeemed as a result of man’s redemption (Rom. 8:20-21)—those acts must not be conflated. Glorification refers to the final salvation of person, not the redemption of inanimate objects.*3

*Glorification is also the fulfillment of Jesus’ desire to see his church purified from all spot, wrinkle, or any such thing (cf. Eph. 5:27), dwelling with him for all eternity. Jesus explicitly prays for this in his High Priestly Prayer, saying, “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world” (John 17:24).*

*Finally, glorification consummates the objective of salvation–namely, to glorify Christ by making him the firstborn among many brethren (Rom. 8:29). Because glorification is the consummation of sanctification, in which believers are perfectly conformed to the image of Christ, glorification especially magnifies Christ as the preeminent source of the beauty of holiness that is reflected in his perfected brethren.*

*Scripture regards the doctrine of glorification as absolutely essential to the Christian faith, so much so that if it were not true, the apostle Paul says that we, of all people, would be most pitied (1 Cor. 15:12-19). It was the hope of a glorified body that galvanized Paul to totally surrender his natural body to the mistreatment and persecution that attended a life of gospel ministry. He said, “for we know that the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1; cf. 4:14-18). The “sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us,” and so believers welcome the sufferings of Christ if it means that “we may also be glorified with him” (Rom. 8:17-18; cf. Phil. 3:10-11). Therefore, while life in a world and in a body that are both cursed by sin causes us to groan, that groaning is assuaged by the eager anticipation of “the redemption of our bodies” (Rom. 8:23).*4

**Thought Questions:**

* Who does the work of glorification of the believer?
* What or who might stop the foreknown from being glorified? (Hint: Romans 8:31-39)

A proper understanding of the doctrine of Glorification and its proper application evokes and stirs the saint – what words come to your mind?

Scripture says you are an heir of God, a join heir of Christ and will be glorified with Him. What words does this bring to mind?

**Personal Application:**

1. Paul says that the expectation of a future bodily resurrection is the “hope” in which we were saved (Rom. 8:24). Is the hope of a future resurrection of your body one of the major things you look forward to in the future? If not, why not? What could increase your hope in the future resurrection of the body?

2. What do you think might occur in your life to give you a greater longing for the resurrection of your body? If you have a grandfather or grandmother or other older friend or relative who has died and gone to be with Christ, what do you think that person will look like on the day of resurrection? Can you imagine what it will be like meeting that person and becoming acquainted again? How will your relationship be different from what it was in this life?

**Practical Application:**

Speak often to one another and comfort/encourage one another with the blessed hope of our sure glorification! 1 Thessalonians 4:18 and 2 Corinthians 4:18

**Supplemental Handout**—“A Call to bring Glorification into our Counseling” by Caroline Newheiser

**Conclusion:**

Spurgeon Morning and Evening - Morning, May 28 “Whom he justified, them he also glorified.—Romans 8:30

Here is a precious truth for thee, believer. Thou mayest be poor, or in suffering, or unknown, but for thine encouragement take a review of thy “calling” and the consequences that flow from it, and especially that blessed result here spoken of. As surely as thou art God’s child today, so surely shall all thy trials soon be at an end, and thou shalt be rich to all the intents of bliss. Wait awhile, and that weary head shall wear the crown of glory, and that hand of labour shall grasp the palm-branch of victory. Lament not thy troubles, but rather rejoice that ere long thou wilt be where “there shall be neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.” The chariots of fire are at thy door, and a moment will suffice to bear thee to the glorified. The everlasting song is almost on thy lip. The portals of heaven stand open for thee. Think not that thou canst fail of entering into rest. If he hath called thee, nothing can divide thee from his love. Distress cannot sever the bond; the fire of persecution cannot burn the link; the hammer of hell cannot break the chain. Thou art secure; that voice which called thee at first, shall call thee yet again from earth to heaven, from death’s dark gloom to immortality’s unuttered splendours. Rest assured, the heart of him who has justified thee beats with infinite love towards thee. Thou shalt soon be with the glorified, where thy portion is; thou art only waiting here to be made meet for the inheritance, and that done, the wings of angels shall waft thee far away, to the mount of peace, and joy, and blessedness, where,

“Far from a world of grief and sin,

With God eternally shut in,”

thou shalt rest for ever and ever.

1. Systematic Theology (p.829)

2. Biblical Doctrine (p. 654)

3. Biblical Doctrine (p. 653)

4. Biblical Doctrine (pp. 654-655)