

## COMPLETELY DONE: Perseverance & Glorification

*“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”*

**- Romans 8:29-30**

*“Believers must persevere in faith and obedience in order to be saved. Yet this perseverance is also a gift of God in Christ, who preserves his own and keeps them safe forever. The ultimate goal of sanctification is our full conformity to Christ’s image, which will finally come when believers are raised physically with Christ in glory, freed from sin and exulting in the presence of God forever.”*

**- Sovereign Grace S.O.F.**

## PERSEVERANCE

“The perseverance of the saints means that all those who are truly born again will be kept by God’s power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the end have truly been born again.” - **Wayne Grudem**

- **John 10:27-29** - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.
- **Phil 1:6** - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
- **1 Peter 1:5** – Believers are “kept by God’s power through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed.”
- **Heb 3:14** - For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

How do we know if we have come to share in Christ? How do we know if this being joined to Christ happened to us at some point in the past?

- One way in which we know that we have come to genuine faith in Christ is if we continue in faith until the end of our lives.
- Those who do not continue in the faith show that there was no genuine faith in their hearts in the first place.

- **1 John 2:19** - They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

Is it up to us to prove we are genuine believers by persevering?

- “The word perseverance might be somewhat confusing because it could seem to communicate that God has started something, and now it is your turn: you must persevere. The biblical teaching, however, is that God has done something; God is doing something; and God will do something. The God who starts is the God who finishes.” - **Danny Myers**
- **Phl 1:6** - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Between justification and glorification, the Lord is committed to changing us!

- **2 Cor. 3:18** - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
- “I prefer the term the preservation of the saints, because the process by which we are kept in a state of grace is something that is accomplished by God. My confidence in my preservation is not in my ability to persevere. My confidence rests in the power of Christ to sustain me with His grace and by the power of His intercession. He is going to bring us safely home.” - **R.C. Sproul**

## GLORIFICATION

**Rev 21:1-3** - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

How does a person in this sin-riddled world move from here to there?

- As creatures marred by sin, we are separated from our glorious God in two ways:
  - First, we are separated because of the effects of our sin.
  - Second, we are separated because we are creatures and not the Creator.
- Our glorification requires dying to our sin in this life and our eventual death in our earthly body.

- Our glorification requires being raised to new life and a new body with Christ in the new heavens and the new earth.

## DEATH

### Death to sin

- **Rom 6:11** - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### Death to body

- **Rom 8:1** - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
  - For those who are in Christ, death is not a punishment for our sins.
- Paul talks about death, not in terms of fear, but deliverance:
  - **Phl 1:21-23** - For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

What happens when a believer dies?

- When a believer dies, the body is left behind while his spirit is united with the Lord:
  - **2 Cor 5:8** - Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
  - **Luke 23:43** - And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

## RESURRECTION

When Christ redeemed us, he did not just redeem our spirits - he redeemed us as whole persons, including our bodies.

### 1 Cor 15:16-22

- Our present faith and future hope is rooted in Christ's resurrection.
- Christ's resurrection is the "firstfruits."

### 1 Cor 15:23-26

- At Christ's return and final judgment, death will be destroyed.
  - **Isa 25:8** - He will swallow up death forever...
  - **Rev 20:14** - Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire...
  - **Rev 21:4** - He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more...

### **1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-44**

- Note the transformation of seeds when they are buried.
- Once we get our spiritual bodies, they'll be totally transformed.
- It appears our new spiritual bodies won't be affected by the troubles we deal with now (Matt. 22:30; Rev. 21:4).
- The conditions that allowed for the temptation and fall of Adam and Eve will no longer exist - believers can have assurance.

### **FUTURE HOPE**

**Col 3:1-4** - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- Our view of the future shapes our life today.
- “Hope matters. We can’t live without it. But what we hope in matters even more. We need a hope strong enough to bear the weight of our lives in the meantime. And that’s precisely what we have in the hope of heaven.” - **Matthew McCullough**
  - Because we are bound for fullness of joy, we can persevere through the dissatisfactions in this life.
  - Because we are bound for spotless righteousness, we can persevere through our feelings of inadequacy in this life.
  - Because we are bound for perfect holiness, we can persevere through our battle with sin in this life.
  - Because we are bound for untouchable security, we can persevere through the anxieties of this life.
  - Because we are bound for no more pain, we can persevere through our suffering in this life.
  - Because we are bound for endless love, we can persevere through our relational grief in this life.
  - Because we are bound for home together, we can persevere in our mission in the church in this life.

**“Come, Lord Jesus!”**