

Glorification

➤ The Issue

- Upon salvation, sinners are forgiven and declared righteous. However, they are not perfected in practice.
- Christians continue to wrestle with sin and temptation from the time of regeneration, throughout life.
- How and when will believers reach that time when the burden of sin is no more?
- Having been freed from the penalty of sin, how can we be sure that we will be freed from the presence of sin?
- God's grace in Christ through glorification solves the problem.

➤ Definition

- Glorification refers to the completion of all aspects of the believer's salvation.
- It is the final step of the believer's salvation which occurs when, in heaven, he sees Christ face to face and sins no more.
- Physically, glorification occurs when the believer receives a new, resurrected, and immortal body.

➤ Scripture

- 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.
- Romans 8:29-30 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also **glorified**.

- Revelation 21:4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; **the first things have passed** away.
- Revelation 22:3-5 There will **no longer be any curse**; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; ⁴ they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

➤ Described

- Upon death (or rapture to be with the Lord) the elect will be permanently rid of sin (Rom. 8:28-29). The battle with sin will be over.
- Glorification will mean the inability to ever be contrary to God in motivation, thought, nature, desire, word, and deed. We will be unable to sin.
- We will only perfectly obey God's law in fullness; perfectly loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and, perfectly considering others more important than ourselves.
- We may observe that the step of glorification in salvation sort has 3 parts to it:
 - 1) In the presence of the Lord
 - Glorification occurs upon the moment of death (or rapture). Whichever occurs first, we will find ourselves in heaven with Christ along with the previously deceased believers (2 Cor. 5:8 – “absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”).
 - 2) The Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:1-6).
 - After the tribulation period, Christ will come to earth to occupy the throne of David (Matt 25:31; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 1:10-11; 2:29-30) and establish His messianic kingdom for 1000 years on the earth (Rev 20:1-7).

- During this time the resurrected and glorified saints will reign with Him over Israel and all the nations of the earth (Ezek 37:21-28; Dan 7:17-22; Rev 19:11-16). This reign will be preceded by the overthrow of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, and by the removal of Satan from the world (Dan 7:17-27; Rev 20:1-7).
 - At the resurrection in the Millennial Kingdom, believers will receive glorified bodies which will never be subject to sin's curse, thus, they will be unable to decay, die, or experience any of the things which lead to death (Rev. 20:1-6).
 - The kingdom itself will be the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel (Isa 65:17-25; Ezek 37:21-28; Zech 8:1-17) to restore them to the land which they forfeited through their disobedience (Deut 28:15-68). The result of their disobedience was that Israel was temporarily set aside (Matt 21:43; Rom 11:1-26) but will again be awakened through repentance to enter into the land of blessing (Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 36:22-32; Rom 11:25-29).
 - This time of our Lord's reign will be characterized by harmony, justice, peace, righteousness, and long life (Isa 11:6 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them; 65:17-25; Ezek 36:33-38), and will be brought to an end with the release of Satan (Rev 20:7).
- 3) The Eternal State in the New Heavens and Earth (Rev. 21:1-22:5).
- after the closing of the millennium, the temporary release of Satan, and the judgment of unbelievers (2 Thess 1:9; Rev 20:7-15), the saved will enter the eternal state of glory with God, after which the elements of this earth are to be dissolved (2 Pet 3:10) and replaced with a new earth wherein only righteousness dwells (Eph 5:5; Rev 20:15, 21-22). Following this, the heavenly city will come down out of heaven (Rev 21:2) and will be the dwelling place of the saints, where they will enjoy forever fellowship with God and one another (John 17:3; Rev 21-22).

- Our Lord Jesus Christ, having fulfilled His redemptive mission, will then deliver up the kingdom to God the Father.
 - We will reign with Christ and the elect forever and ever in unimaginable joy (Rev. 22:5).
 - Things associated with this fallen world such as depression, sorrow, boredom, apathy, arrogance, high-mindedness, pride – things which currently torment the regenerate – will be permanently gone.
- All of these things in the salvation package will have been accomplished by the sovereign grace of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit.
 - Thus, as we began soteriology, we declare that salvation, for all eternity is certainly “to the praise of the glory of His grace” (Eph. 1:6).
 - Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
 - And so this is what it means to be “saved.”
- How should we now live?
- Hebrews 2:1-3 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?...
 - 1 Peter 1:3-4 God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus, leading to an imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance kept in heaven for you.
 - Hebrews 6:19 This hope serves as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure, entering the inner sanctuary behind the curtain where Jesus has gone before us.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,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.

- Recommended resources
 - *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, John Murray, (Eerdmans, 2015), Chapter X: Glorification.
 - *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Biblical Truth*, eds. John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, pp. 653-659, (Crossway, 2017).
 - *The Cross and Salvation*, Bruce Demarest, (Crossway, 1997), Chapter 12.