

Fundamentals of Our Faith from the Beginning

Understanding Salvation (part 4): Glorification¹

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. (Grudem, 828)²

Warm-up Questions:

1. What is the “application of redemption?”
2. When will Christ return and perform the resurrection of all believers?
3. Why is the doctrine of Glorification relevant for us to study today?

A. Romans 8:18-30

1. “glorified” bookends vs. 17 and 30.
2. Creation and mankind groan together under the curse (vs 22-23)
3. God will be faithful to carry out his plan of redemption from beginning to end!
4. The day of our glorification is to be anticipated (2 cor. 4:16-5:5)

B. Four Phases of Glorification

1. Souls in Paradise – The Intermediate State
 - a. Upon death the believer’s soul and body are separated until the time of the resurrection (Luke 23:43; 16:22; Acts 7:59; 2 Cor. 5:8)
 - b. There is an aspect of glorification that happens to the spirits/souls before the resurrection (Heb. 12:23)
 - c. WCF Q. 37 What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?
 - A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory, and their bodies being still united to Christ do rest in their graves till the resurrection.
2. The Resurrection of the Body (Glorification proper)
 - a. Happens in conjunction with the return of Christ (1 Thess. 4:13-18)
 - b. Connecting glorification to resurrection (Acts 3:13-15; 1 Pet. 1:20-21)
 - c. Our earthly body will be transformed to be like Jesus’s glorious body (Phil. 3:20-21)
 - d. Old and new bodies contrasted (1 Cor. 15:35-58)

¹ *The Cross and Salvation: The Doctrine of Salvation* by Bruce Demarest (Wheaton: Crossway, 1997), 467-481.

² *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* by Wayne Grudem (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994)

- e. A resurrection body like Jesus has (John 20:26, 21:9-15)
- 3. Vindication at the Judgment seat of Christ
 - a. We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:12-15)
 - b. The righteous and the unrighteous will be separated at the judgment seat (Matt. 25; John 5:28-29)
 - c. Rewards are given (1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Tim. 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10)
- 4. Entrance into the New Heavens and New Earth
 - a. There will be a new creation. Glorified saints will live in the glorified place, new heaven and new earth, forever. (2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21-22:5)

C. Glorification of the Soul

- 1. Changed by seeing Christ to be like Christ (1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 13:12; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:10)
- 2. Moral perfecting (1 Thes. 3:11-13; 5:23-24; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7-8)
- 3. Freedom from all indwelling/remaining sin

D. Glorification of the Body

- 1. The resurrection was anticipated even in the Old Testament times and is not unique to New Testament teaching. (Job 19:26-27; Isaiah 26:19; Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29)
- 2. New body, like Jesus's resurrection body (1 Cor. 15:35-58; 2 Cor. 5:1-5; Phil. 3:20-21)
- 3. Contrasted with all the trials of our present bodies

E. Application

- 1. Praise the Lord! (Rom. 8:31-39)
- 2. Pursue holiness (2 Pet. 3:14-15)
- 3. Endure suffering (2 Cor. 4:17)
- 4. Know that you are not alone (Rom. 8:26-27)

Complete in Thee! No work of mine
 May take, dear Lord, the place of Thine;
 Thy blood hath pardon bought for me,
 And I am now complete in Thee

Yea, justified! O blessed thought!
 And sanctified! Salvation wrought!
 Thy blood hath pardon bought for me,
 And glorified, I too shall be!

(James M. Gray)³

³ Quoted in *Christian Theology* by Millard J. Erickson (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1995), 1002.