

## NOTES ON GLORIFICATION

November 20, 2022

**INTRO.:** I want us to take some time this morning to think about the true home of every follower of Christ. I am speaking of heaven. What makes heaven our home? It is who is there. We will be in the presence of God for eternity, as well as with fellow believers, those who have trusted Christ to be their Lord and Savior. We have lived at our current home for 13 years which is such a minute amount compared to being with the Lord for eternity. Today is our last message in our series, **ROOTED**, Core Doctrines of the Faith. We are going to look at the doctrine of glorification which is a fitting conclusion and climax to the doctrines we have studied in the last few weeks. Four weeks ago we looked at the doctrine of sin: we are all sinners by birth and by choice. Because of our sin, we are separated from God and under His rightful judgment. The week after that we examined the doctrine of redemption. God bought us back through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. The price of being made right with God has been paid in full.

**Galatians 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

Two weeks ago, we studied the doctrine of justification. This is a declaration of God that the believer is righteous in God’s eyes and totally forgiven of all their sins. No person is justified before God because of what they have done, but because of what God has done through Christ.

**Romans 5:1** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Last week we covered the doctrine of sanctification which has two aspects: our position and our practice. The word literally means, *to set apart*. At the moment of salvation, the believer is set apart by God and declared to be a saint (a set-apart one), God’s precious possession.

**Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV) — 10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The second aspect of sanctification is the process whereby the believer becomes more like Jesus through the work of God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the church. We cannot do this without God at work in our lives.

**Romans 8:28–29** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. **29** For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Redemption and justification relate to the believer being saved from the penalty of sin.

Sanctification relates to the believer being saved from the power of sin, an ongoing process of God’s work in our lives.

As we have gone through these doctrines, I have reminded us that this isn’t just a study to gain information, but it is meant for transformation.

Glorification relates to the believer being saved from the presence of sin which can only happen when we pass from this life into the presence of the Lord. There are three things we will be looking at: God’s Promise, Our Purpose, and Our Perspective.

### **GOD’S PROMISE**

What does God have to say concerning glorification? What do the Scriptures tell us about glorification? It begins with what God says about our salvation.

Next week we will begin our Advent series, *Gifted*. It is the time of the year when people think about gifts. Imagine having a gift that can never be taken away, never grow old, wear out, break, stop functioning, or lose its value. Everything around us is decaying, including our bodies, as we get older.

**John 5:24 (NKJV) — 24** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

“*Most assuredly:*” amen and amen (count on it)

“*hears:*” present tense participle (ongoing)

“*believes:*” present tense participle (ongoing)

“*has everlasting life:*” present tense (ongoing)

“*come:*” present tense

“*has passed:*” happened in the past and continues

**John 6:37–40** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. **38** For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. **39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. **40** For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

“*shall have eternal life:*” present tense (ongoing)

**John 10:27–30** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. **30** I and the Father are one.”

“*listen:*” present tense (ongoing)

“*know:*” present tense (ongoing)

“*follow:*” present tense (ongoing)

“*give them eternal life:*” present tense (ongoing)

“*no one can snatch them:*” future tense

“*given them to me:*” happened in the past and continues

“*no one can snatch them:*” present, active, infinitive

Our eternal salvation is held in God’s hand, secure by His character and power. There are further promises of our eternal state.

**1 John 3:1–3** How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **3** Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

“*called children of God:*” past tense (a done deal, by someone else: God Himself!)

“*we are:*” present tense (ongoing)

**Jude 24** To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—

What does this *glorification* entail?

**Philippians 3:20–21 (NIV84) — 20** But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Paul has just finished exhorting the believers to follow his example and others who are living like him: aiming to become more and more like Jesus. He contrasts that with those who are enemies of the cross of Christ, living for themselves instead of Christ. He begins by reminding them:

\*Our home country: *our citizenship is in heaven* (present tense). So, while you and I, as followers of Jesus, live here on earth we need to remember this is foreign land, our home is in heaven. This is where our citizenship resides and when we experience glorification, this will be realized! Don’t get too comfortable!!!

\*Our new body: *our lowly body will be like His glorious body*

Won't that be an awesome day! This body is not getting better. You know that I love to run but I can't run like I did 20 years ago. Why is that? This body is breaking down. That was not God's intention when he created man and woman, but sin wrecked it all. Some day we will be like Jesus, having a glorified body. No more sorrow, sickness, or pain. This will be accomplished by the power of Christ!

\*Eternal victory over sin and death!!

**1 Corinthians 15:50–57** I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—**52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. **54** When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." **55** "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I can't even imagine being in a place where there is no sin. Everything we see and do is currently marred by sin. No more selfishness or self-centeredness. No more division, arguing, or failure to live up to God's standard.

\*We will be with the Lord forever

As I was preparing this message, I became more and more overwhelmed by the grace and mercy of God. I began to more and more long for being with my Lord and Savior. Oh, I love my family here and this family, but this isn't my forever home. I can relate to what Paul has to say to those in Corinth concerning this body. It is a tent that is wearing out and this is his conclusion.

**2 Corinthians 5:6–7** Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. **7** We live by faith, not by sight.

This is just a small picture of what *glorification* entails. It is something worth meditating on. All of what I just shared should affect:

## OUR PURPOSE

Our destiny informs our purpose!!!!

\*The urgency of the gospel

**1 Peter 3:15** But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

*"in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord:"* this is an imperative, a command: live for Jesus!! Continue on the journey of sanctification, becoming more and more like Jesus.

\*Keeping my eyes on the finish

**Philippians 3:12–14** Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. **13** Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

\*My desire in life is to become more like Jesus

**1 John 3:1–3** How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **3** Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

My standard isn't to be better than most Christians. I don't look around at others who call themselves Christian and make sure I'm just a little bit better. We're not to aim for being just a bit above average.

*"everyone who has this hope in Him:"* all of us!!!

*"has:"* present tense participle (ongoing action)

*"purifies:"* present tense (ongoing action)

*"just as He is pure:"* present tense (ongoing action)

\*My goal is to please Him

**2 Corinthians 5:9–10** So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

*"so we make it our goal:"* present tense (ongoing action)

As followers of Christ our ultimate goal must be to please the Lord, no matter what. Someday every believer will stand before the Lord and answer for what they have done in their Christian life, their walk with God. We are not talking about salvation here but how we have served the Lord, using the gifts He has given us, for His glory.

God's promise of glorification (be at home forever, a new body, eternal victory over sin and death, being with the Lord forever) informs our purpose (urgency of the gospel, keep eyes on the finish, desire to be like Jesus, my goal is to please Him) and affects:

### **OUR PERSPECTIVE**

This provides us with an eternal perspective. It isn't all about what I can see now. There is much more to the story. So many are living for the here and now and will come to the end of their lives and be severely disappointed. We as believers can get wrapped up in the here and now.

**Colossians 3:1–4** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

*"you have been raised with Christ:"* past tense, passive (it has been done to us)

*"set your hearts on things above:"* present tense command (not optional for the believer)

*"set your minds on things above:"* present tense command (not optional for the believer)

*"you died:"* past tense

*"your life is now hidden with Christ in God:"* happened in the past and is ongoing (we are secure in Jesus)

*"you will also appear with Him in glory:"* future tense

I have heard the phrase: "They are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good." I don't believe this is possible because if we are truly heavenly minded, it is at that point, we will be the most earthly good!! Jesus changes everything!!!

### **SO WHAT???**

Take some time every day this week to meditate on the verses we have gone over and those on the bottom of the outline.

Am I sure where I am headed for eternity?

How should my life change as I contemplate the doctrine of glorification?

**1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Where is my home and can people tell it from my life?