

"THE BELIEVER'S GLORY"

Selected Scriptures

What's your #1 purpose in life? Compared with eternity, your life is like a vapor. It's like a glass of water that is spilled on the ground. Spilled water can't be put back in the glass. So, you better get your answer to this question right. Here's what we've learned in the *GLORIFY* series...

**The chief end of man is to glorify
God and to enjoy Him forever!**

We've spent a lot of time looking at ways that we can glorify God during our brief lifetime. . .

- Remember the atoning death of Jesus.
- Abide in Jesus and be fruitful.
- Please the Lord each day.
- Endure the tough times.
- Commit to sexual purity.
- Put others before yourself.

- **Make generosity a priority.**
- **Rely on God's promises.**
- **Worship the Lord.**
- **Respect the Lord.**
- **Serve the Lord.**

Are you a true believer? If you are, then spend your life glorifying the Lord our God. There's no better way to live. Wait. We can't ignore the second part of life's ultimate purpose—ENJOY HIM FOREVER.

Those three words take us to another place and to another time. This life is over. If you sincerely trusted Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you will have experienced genuine salvation in the truest sense of the word. This includes . . .

JUSTIFICATION

Romans 5:1–2 ... Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 ... He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

This phase of our salvation simply means that through faith in Christ alone we are made right with the one and only holy God.

SANCTIFICATION

To "sanctify" a person is to make him/her holy.

1 Peter 2:24 ... and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

2 Corinthians 3:18 ... But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

From the moment you were justified, the Holy Spirit began working in your heart to make you more like Jesus—to *conform you to His image*. This phase of the salvation process will persist

until you die or Jesus comes again. That will trigger the next part of the salvation process...

GLORIFICATION

The word "*hope*" as used in the Bible in reference to believers indicates a confident expectation.

Titus 3:5–7 ... He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Christians often admit...

"I know I should be looking forward to going to heaven, but there's so much about death and the afterlife I don't understand. To be honest with you, I'm afraid to die."

Colossians 1:25–27 ... Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I

might fully carry out the *preaching of* the word of God, **26** *that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, **27** to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is *Christ in you, the hope of glory*.

As you approach your own death, you don't have to die with your fingers crossed halfway believing God's promises and halfway doubting them. If you are saved, you can die with a robust expectation of instantly entering into the glory of God's infinite presence.

Philippians 1:21 ... For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

The moment you die, your soul will go to be with the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:6–8 ... Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— **7** for we walk by faith, not by sight— **8** we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather

to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

In the presence of the Lord, you will ...

- **never be tempted to sin again**
- **saturated with fullness of joy**
- **benefit from an array of pleasures**
- **never be sick or fret over dying**
- **live in perfect harmony with God & others**
- **experience a deeper fellowship with God**

That's the spiritual side of glorification. Wait, there's more. Glorification not only impacts you spiritually. Believe it or not, there is a physical side to glorification. The process of salvation is not complete until our bodies are raised from the dead.

The bodies of all believers will be raised from the dead when the Lord Jesus comes again...

1 Corinthians 15:42–44 ... So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*; **43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown

in weakness, it is raised in power; **44** it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*.... **50** Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 ... For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Are you a true believer? I want you to understand this truth...

YOU ARE DESTINED FOR GLORY!

Think about this. The living God saves worthless sinners like us, and He wants to share His glory with us.

2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 ... But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.
14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What a staggering truth this is!

[Illustration: Moses and Elijah at the transfiguration: Matthew 17:1-8]

YOU ARE DESTINED FOR GLORY!

With this truth firmly fixed in our minds and hearts, it should have a tremendous impact on our lives...

1. LIVE WITH AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE.

Colossians 3:1–4... Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Your spiritual position in Christ promotes your constant living out of the power and potential of your new life in Christ and it promotes your consistent alignment with your new heavenly reality.

2. FACE HARD TIMES WITH CONFIDENCE.

Romans 8:18 ... For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.... **28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

F.F. Bruce — ***"It is not merely that the glory is a compensation for the suffering: it actually grows out of the suffering."***

2 Corinthians 4:17 ... For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.

Nothing that you will ever face can compare to the glory of God that He will share with you!

3. ANTICIPATE THE BLESSINGS OF GOD.

You have an amazing inheritance waiting for you...

1 Peter 1:3–5 ... Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

You will reign with Christ and serve Him for all of eternity.

"O That Will Be Glory" (Hymn #520)

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