



## **Lesson 17: Glorification, Part 1**

Key Verses:

Romans 8:30; Romans 13:11; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:1-3

### **Definition of Glorification:**

“It is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive.”

Not until death is defeated and destroyed forever will the believer see the completion of their salvation. To die as a believer is to have hope yet with grief; 1 Thess. 4:13-14. But the last enemy to be destroyed is death; 1 Cor. 15:26.

When thinking of our future glory with Christ think of the following:

1. Redemption of the body; Rom. 8:23.
2. Rapture of the body: immediately changed without death; 1 Cor. 15:50-51; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.
3. Resurrection of the body; 1 Cor. 15 and 1 Thess. 4.
4. Rewards received from Christ.
5. Renovation of the heavens and earth – a new heaven and a new earth; Revelation 21 with 2 Peter 3:10.
6. Redeemed forever—removal of every aspect of our fall except for the wounds of the Savior.

Consider the various aspects of our glorification with Christ:

1. Saved but longing for a redeemed body; Romans 8:23 with Philippians 3:20-21.
2. Saved and given the hope of a resurrected body; John 5:25-29; also Daniel 12:1-2.

### 1 Corinthians 15:20-24

Resurrection of believers takes place at various times and in a definite order:

- Christ; v. 20
- Those at His coming; v. 23
- Raptured saints
- Return of Christ to the earth with saints
- Resurrection of the unsaved to face final judgment; John 5:29; Daniel 12:1-2; Revelation 20:11-15

Resurrected body described: 1 Cor. 15:35-49

- Imperishable; v. 42
- Glory; v. 43
- Spiritual; v. 44
- Power; v. 43

### 3. The saved live with the hope of the return of Christ; Titus 2:11-14

A. Christ returns for His church in the air: Rapture; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:9; 1:9-10.

B. Christ returns with His church to the earth: Return; Rev. 19.

Our understanding is the Church is raptured or caught up in the air to be with Christ prior to the “Day of the Lord” or the “time of Jacob’s trouble” promised in the Old Testament prophets. This period will be a time of great tribulation and the fulfillment of the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel; Daniel 9:24-27.

God’s Church has not been appointed to divine wrath; 1 Thess. 5:9. The seven year period of tribulation described in Revelation 6-19 is a time of divine wrath. Some make it a time of satanic wrath. But the period from the Old Testament onward makes it a time of God’s wrath poured out on the nations prior to the Lord Jesus Christ establishing His reign on the earth for a thousand years; Revelation 20. We take the thousand year period as literal and not allegorical.

4. The saved will be rewarded in the future. Believers will come before the Bema Seat of Christ to be acknowledged for the good works they did in obedience to God; Ephesians 2:10.

“The Judgment Seat of God or Christ” referred to in Romans 14:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:10 referred to a divine tribunal where Christ will evaluate the deeds done in the life of the believer. This judgment is to discern the motives and quality of work done so that it can be rewarded. It is not a judgment to determine destiny but a judgment of the “quality of work” done by the believer; 1 Cor. 3:13-17, *wood, hay, stubble* - meaning *perishable*, versus *gold, silver, precious stones* or that which is *imperishable*.” (see W. E. Vine Dictionary, Old and New Testament Words, p. 282).

A. When will the Bema Seat take place?

- Rewards given on *that Day* which is connected to the return of Christ; 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Cor. 3:13-14.
- Jesus promised to reward His people for their work when He returns; Revelation 22:12.
- When Christ returns to the earth with His bride, the Church, she is arrayed in fine linen which is described as *the righteous acts of the saints*; Rev. 19:7-8.

B. Who will be at the Bema Seat?

The rewards promised to the saints in the New Testament are to saints who are in the Lord Jesus Christ; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Thess. 2:19-20; 2 Tim. 4:8. This takes place at the Rapture of the Church.

Old Testament and Tribulation saints will be rewarded and resurrected before the thousand year reign of Christ at the end of the Tribulation; Dan. 12:1-2; John 5:28-29; Rev. 20:4.

Scriptures do not teach that the saved and unsaved are resurrected at the same time. Neither do the scriptures teach

that all mankind, saved and unsaved, come before the White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20:1-15. Only the unsaved appear before the White Throne Judgment which is different than the *Bema Seat—Athletic Appraisal* just for believers.

C. What happens at the Bema Seat Judgment?

- Our works will be evaluated by Christ to see if they were good; agathos = beneficial, useful or bad fallos = worthless; 2 Cor. 5:10.
- The glorified Christ has eyes like a flame of fire; Rev. 1:14 and His Word penetrates the heart so as to expose its innermost thoughts and intents. Nothing is hidden before His eyes; Heb. 4:12-13.
- Reward will be given for those works that pass his scrutiny with approval; 1 Cor. 3:14.
- Those works that are seen as worthless will be burned up 1 Cor. 3:15. There will be a *loss* of reward but not of salvation.

D. What Kinds of Rewards will be Given?

Saints are said to be given *crowns*. These *crowns* refer to the victors crown (Gr. Stephanos) and not a diadem used of royalty. Picture the medals won for running a race.

- Our rewards are likened to *heavenly treasures*; Matt. 6:20; 1 Tim. 6:18-19.
- Some rewards may be verbal; Matt. 25:21; 1 Cor. 4:5.
- Some rewards are crowns:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_: for disciplining ourselves in order to finish the race; 1 Cor. 9:24-27.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_: for faithful witness to others; Phil. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:19.

People will be a *reward* and not *things*. Why do we invest all our resources in things when people we invest in for Jesus Christ will constitute an eternal reward?

3. \_\_\_\_\_: for enduring trials and overcoming temptation; James 1:12; Rev. 2:10.
4. \_\_\_\_\_: faithful service while looking for Jesus’ return; 2 Tim. 4:6-8.
5. \_\_\_\_\_: for elders who faithfully shepherd God’s people; 1 Peter 5:2-4.

Any crown or crowns the saints receive will ultimately be cast at the feet of Jesus in worship and honor; Rev. 4:10-11. Our gratitude to Jesus will be the admission *without Him we can do nothing good*; John 15:5.

### **Questions for you and I:**

Are you giving Jesus Christ your best effort?

2 Timothy 4:8

Are you walking in the good works He has designed for you. . .or are you walking in your own good works?

Ephesians 2:10

## **Next Week Lesson 18: Glorification, Part 2**





## Special Break-Out Session – May 13, 2015

### **Special Discussion Guidelines:** (25 minutes)

In this break-out session, we will briefly discuss Biblical giving and spend time in prayer specifically for the upcoming campaign event that will be held on Sunday night May 17, 2015. Recently our congregation went through Brian Kluth's booklet, 7 Keys to Openhanded Living in a Tightfisted World. In that book he discussed many Bible verses and asked probing questions.

In preparation for us beseeching God for our financial needs as a congregation, discuss the verses below as well as your responses to the following questions.

Luke 6:38 *"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

**Question:** Can you recall a time when you experienced what Kluth called God's crazy math and saw the Lord provide for you in unexpected ways?

Luke 14:33 *"In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."*

**Question:** Do you believe you have fully surrendered yourself and all you have to the Lord? If not, what is holding you back?

Deut. 26:12 *"When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied."*

**Question:** Have you ever gone without something in order to be able to set aside money to give as a sacrificial gift to the Lord's work? What is something you could live without – for a while or forever – in order to help you be able to set aside funds to be more generous?

1 Tim. 6:18-19 *"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."*

**Question:** How are you doing in investing in something beyond yourself that is laying up treasure for the coming age?

### **Prayer Time** (15 minutes)

***During this time, the group is encouraged to pray for each other as well as to pray specifically that God would move in a mighty way and work in people's hearts to enable them to be both willing and able to give generously to our INVESTED campaign and to the Ministries of Valley Bible Church.***

### **Wrap-Up** (5 minutes)

Answer any remaining questions and clarify the homework for the following week.







## **Lesson 17 Homework**

1. Read Revelation 21-22 and make note of all that will be missing and all that will be present in our eternal home.
2. See if you can list as many things said in the passage above about the condition the saints will be in when they see Christ.
3. Look up in a bible dictionary the meaning of "hope". Then take a bible concordance: Strong, Young's, New American Exhaustive Concordance---and look at the New Testament verses for "hope". Make a list of verses for yourself to either memorize or Have on hand to describe what is yet to come in your Salvation.

Remember Romans 13:11 "for salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed."