

"The Doctrine of Glorification"

Romans 8:14-8:39

Part 4

Introduction: In the past three lessons we have been looking at the Doctrine of Glorification which deals with the glorious future of the believer. Our glorification is something that is yet future but in the mind of God it is something that is complete.

Romans 8:29-30

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

*³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, **them he also glorified.***

As we begin tonight, I want to raise a few questions and then spend some time answering the questions. "What is the believer's glorification?" "What does the Bible mean when it says that we will one day be glorified?" Some will teach you that it is a reference to the glorified bodies we will receive when the rapture takes place. I believe that is part of it but there is more.

Notice Romans 8:18

This is the verse which we stopped with last week. I want you to notice here that the glory will be revealed IN US. Paul does not say the glory will be revealed TO US or BY US, but he says the glory will be revealed IN US. This then has the idea that the glory is already IN US now, but it is not yet revealed. Let me show you the meaning of the word "REVEALED".

"It literally means to remove the cover from and so the idea is to remove that which conceals something. The idea is to cause something to be fully known by "removing the veil or covering" which then exposes to full view what was previously hidden. Revealed means to make manifest or reveal a thing previously secret or unknown and is especially applied to supernatural revelation. It means to cause something to be fully known."

Now the question is, "What is within us that is to be uncovered in the future?" The answer is the character, image, and likeness of God. When man was created, he was created in the image and the likeness of God.

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Man was therefore created in the image and likeness of God which means God's character was manifest in him. But then sin entered in.

Romans 3:23

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:

When sin entered into the heart of man it then became impossible for man to manifest the character of God. But God did not leave Himself without a witness. Now when we trust in Jesus Christ as Savior, we are given the Spirit of God and He lives the life of Jesus Christ in and through us when we walk in the Spirit. But it is only glimpses of the glory that we see today because the manifestation of God IN US is veiled by the flesh which we still possess.

1 Corinthians 13:10-12

¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

¹¹ When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

¹² For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

There is coming a day when we will drop this robe of flesh and we will then receive of glorified bodies and it will be then that that that the glory WITHIN us will be revealed.

1 Corinthians 15:49

⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

1 John 3:2

² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Tonight, as we continue, we are going to see when this manifestation will take place.

I. The Explanation of Glorification
Part 4
Romans 8:14-27

Notice Romans 8:19

The word "creature" here means "creation". The entire creation is waiting for the day when the sons of God will be revealed. The next verse tells why the creation is living in anticipation.

Notice Romans 8:20

The word "for" here is a connective and it introduces why the entire creation lives in anticipation of the manifestation of the sons of God. The reason is the entire creation was made subject to vanity but not willingly. The creation was made subject to vanity by God and God has also given creation a future hope. Now all of this points to what happened in Genesis 3 when Adam sinned. One of the consequences was that all of creation would come under the curse.

Genesis 3:17-19

*¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground** for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

When Adam sinned, his sin had a global impact. The consequences would also affect all of creation. There would now be storms, hurricanes, tornados and earthquakes. These never existed before the fall. There would now be conflict in the animal kingdom. Before the fall there was perfect harmony in the animal kingdom. There would now be conflict between man and animals. This too did not exist before the fall. Before the fall the animal kingdom was all vegetarians but after the fall it all changed.

Notice the words of Newell:

"Now although we who are in Christ are new creatures, yet God has left our bodies as the link with the present "groaning" creation. Meanwhile, how "the bondage of corruption" appears on every side! Death—are not all creatures in terror of it, seeking to escape it? Every decaying carcass of poor earth-creatures speaks of the 'bondage of corruption.'"

What ruin man's sin has affected throughout the creation, as well as upon himself! It was God's good pleasure, that when man sinned and became estranged from his God, all creation, which was under him, should be subjected to the "bondage of corruption" along with him, in decay and disease and suffering, death, and destruction, everywhere, —of bondage, with no deliverer."

But this curse was subjected with hope.

Notice Romans 8:21

The entire creation will one day be delivered from the curse and at the same time the glory IN US will be manifest. This is the hope of creation and this is why the creation lives in anticipation of the manifestation of the sons of God. Now the question is, "When will this happen?"

This will all take place at the end of the Great Tribulation when Jesus returns and sets up the Millennial Kingdom.

Isaiah 11:6-9

⁶ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 60:18

¹⁸ Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

Jesus will return at the end of the Great Tribulation to set up His kingdom and we will return with Him. That will be the time of the manifestation of the sons of God.

Revelation 19:11-14

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

¹² *His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*

¹³ *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*

¹⁴ *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

Verse 14 is a description of the Church returning with Jesus. Now let me show you what John wrote in Revelation 1.

Revelation 1:7

⁷ *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

Notice Romans 8:22

This verse tells us that the entire creation is experiencing birth pangs as it waits for the glorious deliverance from the curse. Notice the words of Jones:

"I wonder whether the phenomenon of the Spring supplies us with a part answer. Nature every year, as it were, makes an effort to renew itself, to produce something permanent; it has come out of the death and the darkness of all that is so true of the Winter. In the Spring it seems to be trying to produce a perfect creation, to be going through some kind of birth-pangs year by year. But unfortunately, it does not succeed, for Spring leads only to Summer, whereas Summer leads to Autumn, and Autumn to Winter. Poor old nature tries every year to defeat the "vanity" of the principle of death and decay and disintegration that is in it. But it cannot do so. It fails every time. It still goes on trying, as if it feels things should be different and better; but it never succeeds. So, it goes on "groaning and travailing in pain together until now." It has been doing so for a very long time... but nature still repeats the effort annually. But it will be set free one day from this corruption "into the freedom of the glory of the children of God."

As the earth attempts to bring forth a perfect creation every spring it meets with the curse which stirs the storms and earthquakes. Many times, the storms and the earthquakes are attributed to the judgment of God, but they are the birth pangs of the earth under the curse. There will be a day when God will use the natural disasters to bring judgment upon the world, but today, they are the results of the curse. Let me show you what God will bring about in the Tribulation.

Revelation 6:12-14

¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Isaiah 13:13

¹³ Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

Here we see the earthquakes of the Tribulation are the results of judgment but much of what we see today are the results of the curse. There have been situations where God used earthquakes and other natural disasters to bring about His will and to get man's attention. The flood of Noah's day was one such example. We see another in the Gospels and in Acts.

Matthew 28:2

² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Acts 16:25-26

²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

²⁶ And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Notice Romans 8:23

It is not only the creation which groans in anticipation but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit. We groan within ourselves as we await the day when we will be free from these bodies of death and receive our glorified body. But there is more to consider here. The groanings come because of the sinfulness of our bodies which we still must deal with every day. These bodies wear out and we experience pain and suffering. But that is not the primary reason for the groaning. Deep down inside the believer longs to be free from sin completely so as to live in perfect obedience to our Lord. Notice the words of an unnamed writer:

"The groanings bewail a condition that is painful, unsatisfying, and sorrowful and are a cry for deliverance from a torturing experience. The pain we feel now because we still live in bodies that harbor the flesh (the old sin nature) which causes us to we still stumble and grieve the Holy Spirit. In this passage, the deep distress is related primarily to our remaining sinfulness. This is especially painful to those who know that they have been shown great mercy and have manifold grace to live victoriously for His glory."

Notice Romans 8:23 again.

The Spirit here is referred to as the firstfruits because the Holy Spirit is the down payment thus being the firstfruits of our glorification which is yet to come.

The verse also tells us that we wait for the adoption. The idea here is that we wait for the return of Jesus Christ to gather us in the rapture and take us to our eternal home.

Conclusion:

There is a saying that is often used that fits the believer's life so well. "THE BEST IS YET TO COME."

2 Corinthians 5:1-4

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

² *For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:*

³ *If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.*

⁴ *For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.*