

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Wed. Eve. Bible Study - 2/3/16

Great Words Of The Bible

GLORIFICATION

Scripture Portion: Romans 8: 28-39

²⁸ 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 image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Romans 8:29-30 we read of the unfolding of God's purpose, or intention, for every one of His children in the words “foreknew”, “predestined”, “called”, “justified” and “*glorified*”. In the purpose of God (2 Timothy 1:9), all the redeemed are already foreknown, predestinated, called, justified and glorified. Here is the guarantee of our eternal security □- of the fact that if we are now truly the Lord's then our certain and ultimate experience will be one of glorification. The following references also bear directly upon the biblical doctrine of glorification □- Psalms 73:24; 84:11; 1 Corinthians 15:43; Colossians 3:4; Hebrews 2:10 and 1 Peter 5:10. What is meant by all these references to our glorification? **Of what does the future glory and blessings of the saved consist?**

1. The Glory and Blessings of Being Forever with the Lord.

The chief attraction of future glory will be that we shall be *with Him*, our beloved Lord and Saviour - look up John 14:3 “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” and 1 Thessalonians 4:17 “After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”

Now the Lord is with us (Isaiah 43:2; Psalm 23:4; Hebrews 13:5-6), but *then* we shall be with Him! The unbeliever cannot enter into this at all, and only those who want Him with them now will desire to be with Him in His glory.

2. The Glory and Blessings of Being Conformed to the Lord's Likeness.

We shall not only be with Him, but we shall be *like* Him ☐- look up 1 John 3:2 "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." God's program for every believer is ultimate conformity to the image of His Son - Romans 8:29. Every believer will have a body like His body ☐- 1 Corinthians 15:20. We shall not be angels or disembodied spirits, but we shall live in new, glorified bodies, and we shall be like Him!

3. The Glory and Blessings of Living in Perfect Surroundings.

Our first parents lived in a perfect environment in the Garden of Eden, but through the "first man", Adam, sin entered (Romans 5:12), and thus also the curse, and Paradise was lost. Then, in the fulness of time (Galatians 4:4), "a second Adam to the fight and to the rescue came", and through His work upon the cross, and by virtue of all that He is in His glorious Person, Paradise has been regained and will be the eternal dwelling place of all believers. Glory for the believer will mean living in a world of perfect order and complete harmony ☐- Matthew 6:10 "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

4. The Glory and Blessings of Freedom from Earth's Limitations.

While we are in the body we groan to be freed from it and to enjoy the blessings of the "unlimited expanses of eternity". Down here sin limits us; we are freed from its guilt and penalty, but we possess a fallen nature and we live in a fallen body which is subject to sin's power and Satan's attacks. Down here our bodies give us a great deal of trouble, and we experience weakness, sickness, pain and the infirmities of age, and ultimately death itself - Romans 8:23 tells us this. Meditate upon the things which will be missing in Heaven, such as tears, death, sorrow, crying, pain, etc.! (Revelation 21 and 22).

5. The Glory and Blessings of Fellowship with all the Redeemed.

Often when we meet for fellowship down here we say afterwards, "It has been a foretaste of Glory!" This is true, for when we are glorified we shall meet with the saints of all ages (Luke 13:29) ☐- the Old Testament saints, the New Testament saints, the early Christian martyrs, the Reformers, all our Christian friends and loved ones, and multitudes of children (Matthew 18:10). What a glorious reunion this will be ☐- and, of course, we shall recognize one another! This recognition is implied (1 Corinthians 13:12); illustrated (Luke 9:30-31); affirmed (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18); confirmed (1 Thessalonians 2:19); and guaranteed (1 Corinthians 15:6).

6. The Glory and Blessings of Engaging in the King's Service.

Revelation 22:3 tells us this, "No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him" and Matthew 25:21 tells us that all our service here and now is a preparation for service there and then. Compare also Matthew 19:28; Luke 19:17 and 1 Corinthians 6:2-3. It is difficult to conceive in what ways we shall serve Him there, but we shall serve Him and how glad and how glorious such service will be! Remember, however, that faithfulness here qualifies for authority and responsibility there.

7. The Glory and Blessings of True and Unhindered Worship

This study ends where it began, for we emphasize again that the supreme joy and wonder of our glorification will be experienced when we join with "the countless multitudes on high that tune their song to Jesus' Name. Do you belong to Him? If so, "those he justified, *he also glorified.*" Look up **Jude, verses 24-25**. "To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
When, at His bidding, every storm is stilled,
Or who can say how great the jubilation
When all the hearts of men with love are filled.

But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
And myriad, myriad human voices sing,
And earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:
At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!