

# Glorification

## 2 Thessalonians 2:14

He called you to this through our gospel,  
that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Called to Glory

Dear friends, here is grounds for rejoicing! That God would call us to share in His glory! The exceeding greatness of this statement cannot be measured, indeed it will take eternity for us to experience the glorious richest of His kindness. *When we speak of “glory,” we speak of that quality of life and exceeding joy in the presence of God, which we God saints, will experience forevermore, world without end! It is the state to which we will be transformed, a state of immortality and holiness.* It is that sure and firm promise of God, that He shall deliver us to His presence where we will be eternally fulfilled and made to be glad with everlasting happiness in his kingdom of peace and glory. It was promised to us before the beginning of time, the prophets cried out in hope of it, Christ Jesus purchased it for us, and we now eagerly await it. Even now our God is preparing us to enter into this blessedness, to this end He has called us, where we will be ultimately conformed into the perfect image and likeness of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

**1 Corinthians 2:7-** 7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and **that God destined for our glory before time began.** NIV

**Romans 9:23-24** - 23 What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, **whom he prepared in advance for glory- 24 even us, whom he also called,** not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? NIV

**1 Peter 5:10** - 10 And the God of all grace, **who called you to his eternal glory in Christ,** after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

**1 John 3:2** - 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. NIV

### Glorification Defined

First and foremost glorification speaks of the sanctification and moral perfection that we will take on at the resurrection, when Christ appears. *We shall be made like Christ and take on His holiness, perfection and immortality.* The process of sanctification is at work in us now, but moves from one degree of glory to another until it reaches final glory, the eternal state.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** - 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, **are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory,** which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. NIV

**Col 3:4** - 4 When Christ, who is your life, **appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

**Ephesians 5:25-27** - just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and **to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.**

Like other aspects of salvation, *glorification is the work of God.* To this state of glory believers are effectually called, drawn, brought, predestined and foreordained(1 Cor 2:7).

**Romans 8:28-30** - 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 likeness of his Son,** that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, **he also glorified.** NIV

**Heb 2:10-11** - 10 In **bringing many sons to glory,** it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. NIV

**John 6:44** - 44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. NIV

We are said to be "*prepared in advance for glory (Rom 9:23)*," this obviously done by God, who also prepares glory for us. Even as we speak *Christ is preparing a place for us*, who will by inheritance receive this glory to which we have been called!

**1 Cor 2:9** - 9 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"- NIV

**John 14:1-3** - 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 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. NIV

Although this work is God's, *it is our privilege to pursue this glory, that is the moral perfection of God*, and it will also be worked in us through our present suffering. This suffering will indeed conform us in to His image, but is not even worthy to be compared to the surpassing greatness of the future state of glory we will partake of!

**Romans 2:7** - 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life NIV

**Romans 8:18-21** - 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-17** - 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. NIV

## Glorification and Future Hope

Dear saints, it is to this great promise that we look with eager expectation. Imagine what it must be like to exist in a world with no death or dying, no crying or pain, no conflict or war. A place where our hearts are perfectly happy and fulfilled with joy and pleasures which will never end. A place of splendor and magnificence beyond description, where the great King of the Ages is honored and glorified by millions of glorious angels in majestic praise! *A state in which we lie down in peace, with nothing to fear or loathe, and the joy and happiness of Jesus fills our hearts forever and ever!* Are there any words to describe such a place that can be spoken on earth? Indeed there are not!

**Rev 21:1-4** - 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." NIV

**Psalms 16:11** - 11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. NKJV

More than this, it is the transformation of our own bodies, minds and will that we desperately long for. Oh that God would rend the heavens and come to the earth to change my heart so that I would never again look upon my fellow man with contempt or anger. That in my heart would be perfect peace and only the thoughts of purity and holiness would consume me at all times! To this we look eagerly, yes we hope for this very thing. That this mortal would put on immortality, and that we would be changed! Friends, with this as our hope, shall we ever fear death again? No, it will be swallowed up in victory!

**Rom 8:23-25** - 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in

**this hope we were saved.** But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. NIV

## **Glorification and the Resurrection**

If you are in Christ, spiritually you have been born again and raised up with Christ from that dead state of sin that you were formerly in. Your mind, will, and emotions have been transformed by the Spirit of God, you have experienced regeneration. But you still live in a mortal body, which is subject to sin and temptation, which will shortly die physically. But this physical death for the Christian is the portal by which we enter into glory. ***Here is our great and blessed hope, that our earthly, physical and mortal body will be transformed to be like Christ's heavenly, spiritual and immortal body is!*** Our bodies will no longer be subject to sin and temptation, indeed we will put on immortality and being immortal, we will never again be subject to death or dying or pain.

**Phil 3:20-21** - 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.** NIV

**1 Cor 15:42-44** - 42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. **The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;** 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.** NIV

The spiritual body that we will take on will be like the glorious spiritual body that the Lord Jesus has, seen in the bible in the days after His resurrection. ***This body has power over the physical universe and is not subject even to the limitations of time or space.*** Jesus at this time was able to appear and disappear at will, keep himself from being recognized, yet still able to eat and drink. His body is spiritual, but is able to interact with the physical realm. The spiritual body transcends the physical realm. Oh what a glorious freedom awaits us who have this hope!

**Luke 24:30-31** - 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 **Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.** NIV

**Luke 24:36-52** - 36 While they were still talking about this, **Jesus himself stood among them** and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! **Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.**" 40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42 **They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.** 44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

**Luke 24:51** -51 While he was blessing them, **he left them and was taken up into heaven.** NIV

The resurrection of the dead is not only the blessed hope of the church, but also the physical universe itself. The universe is now in "bondage to decay" and travails longing to no longer be subject to the laws of entropy (2<sup>nd</sup> law of thermodynamics). Throughout the bible God has promised to redeem even the physical realm and create all things new!

**Rom 8:18-21** - 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 **The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.** 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that **the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.** NIV

These things will have their fulfillment at the second coming of Jesus Christ. He will come again in majesty and in power as a conquering king to bring the entire creation under His direct and physical rule. It is at this time that we shall be changed and become like Him. The bible makes it crystal clear that at the second coming of Christ, we will

participate with Him in His glory and power of death and sin. These things will happen on the day of His visitation, when He appears, and not a moment before.

**Col 3:4 - 4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**1Thes 4:15-17**-According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 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.

**1 Cor 15:50-53** - 50 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. NIV  
**Matt 24:31**-And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

**Daniel 12:2-3** - 2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. NIV

**2 Thess 1:7-10** – 7 This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. NIV

**1 John 3:2** - 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. NIV

## Glorification and Suffering

**Rom 8:17** - 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

**1 Peter 5:1** - 5:1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: NIV

**2 Tim 2:10-13** - 10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. 11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself. NAS