

SALVATION - COMPLETION

“what we shall be”

Key question

What is the final state of every believer?

Key text

I John 3:2

“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.”

Key Definition

Glorification

Glorification is the transformation of the believer along with all creation to the perfect state of the Creator’s image and likeness.

Introduction.

1. This is the part of soteriology (doctrine of salvation) that overlaps with eschatology (doctrine of end time events).
2. The “blessed hope” of the believer is the second coming of Christ at which time the believer will be like Him.
3. The glory of anything is the manifestation of its true (God intended essence). For example the glory of a tree is the manifestation of a tree without distortion or blemish. The glory of God is the manifestation of the essence of God without distortion or blemish. The glory of man is the experience and expression of the image of God in man without distortion or blemish.

A. Aspects of glorification

1. The believer will receive a heavenly body. Phil.3:20-21, I Cor.15:38-50, II Cor.5:1-5

Present Body	Resurrection Body
earthly	heavenly
perishable	imperishable
dishonor	glory

weakness	power
natural	spiritual
Adam - a living soul from the earth	Christ - a life giving spirit from heaven
First - the natural	Second - the spiritual
cannot inherit the kingdom of God	is compatible with the kingdom of God

2. The vindication of the believer. Col.1:22 “He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach”
3. The removal of evil and temptation. Rev.20:7-10
4. All tears and pain will be washed away. Rev.7:17; 21:4
5. Full knowledge will be ours. I Cor.13:12 “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.”
6. The creation will be restored to its perfection. Rom.8:19-22

B. **Key texts**

- **Ps.24:7-10** “Who is the King of glory? the Lord strong and mighty, the Lord strong in battle.”
- **Ps.73:24** “Thou dost guide me with thy counsel, and afterward thou wilt receive me to glory.”
- **Rom.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.”
- **Rom.8:30** “and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”
- **I Cor.15:51-52** “Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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 shall be changed.”
- **II Cor.4:17** “For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.”
- **I Pet.5:1,4** “Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow-elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,” . . .
“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

C. **Common questions concerning the glorified state.**

1. Will the “new heaven and earth” resemble the present heaven and earth?
 - a. It is possible that the new heaven and earth mentioned in II Pet.3:13 will be like the pre fall heaven and earth.
 - b. Some of the descriptions of the Millennial Kingdom in the Old Testament suggest an environment that is pre-fall.
2. Will we be recognizable in heaven? What will be our apparent age?
 - a. Most of what we know about the “glorified body” comes from the resurrected Jesus.
 - b. He was recognized by his followers - although not always immediately.
 - c. He was able to participate in some physical activity - eating food.
 - d. He was not limited in some aspects of his physical life - appearing and disappearing suddenly.

- e. See the notes on “heaven” and “resurrection” for more information.

Questions that you should be able to answer.

1. Specific facts you should know.

- a. What is the “blessed hope” of the believer?
- b. What does it mean to be glorified?

2. Issues that you should be able to discuss.

- a. What can the believer expect at the point of glorification?
- b. What will happen to the creation when the believer is glorified?
- c. How will the resurrection body differ from our earthly body?