

Sunday, December 30, 2012—The Things Freely Given Us of God—Glorification

Introduction

- Three weeks ago before our Christmas messages when we were last in our current series The Things Freely Given Us of God we talked about our justification and what it means to be declared righteous before almighty God.
- There is one more thing in Romans 8:30 that has been given to us freely that we need to discuss and that is glorification. Those who have been justified and given the very righteousness of God have also been glorified.
- Romans 8:30—the Greek word translated “glorified” carries the following meanings according to *Strong’s Concordance*: 1) to think, suppose, be of opinion, 2) to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate 3) to honour, do honour to, hold in honour 4) to make glorious, adorn with lustre, clothe with splendor. All the variations of the word i.e., glorify, glorifying, or glorified all come from this same Greek word.
 - Matthew 5:16—glorify
 - Luke 2:20—glorifying
- There are two English words that we also need to know the meanings of.
 - Glorified—honored; dignified; exalted to glory.
 - Glorification—the act of giving glory or of ascribing honors to. Exaltation to honor and dignity; elevation to glory; as the glorification of Christ after his resurrection.
- According to Romans 8:30 we have already been glorified but according to Romans 8:18 there is a future aspect to our glorification as well. So for the purposes of this study we want to consider the following points:
 - How God will be glorified in Israel in the future.
 - How we have already been glorified.
 - The future aspect of our glorification.

Israel Glorified in the Future

- I Peter 1:10-11—we spoke at length last Sunday about how all the prophetic passages about the sufferings of Christ have been fulfilled and that remains undone are the passages that speak of “the glory that should follow.” Dispensationally this glory is still future from where we are today.
- Isaiah 26:15—the Lord is gloried when Israel is increased and prospers.
- Isaiah 44:23—the Lord has glorified himself in Israel by redeeming Jacob.

- Isaiah 49:3—the Lord will be glorified in Israel.
- Isaiah 55:5
- Isaiah 60:1-9
- Isaiah 61:1-3

How Have We Already Been Glorified?

- Romans 8:30—our position of having already being glorified centers around the work of Christ on our behalf. We have already seen in previous study how we have been crucified, buried, risen, quickened, ascended, and seated with Christ in the heavenly places. The fact that we are glorified stem from our identification with Christ.
 - Philippians 2:9-11
- Remember that the Greek word translated glorified carries the following meanings: 2) to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate 3) to honour, do honour to, hold in honour 4) to make glorious, adorn with lustre, clothe with splendor.
- In Jesus Christ the believer has already been glorified and honored in the following ways. Unlike Israel we don't have to wait for God to be glorified in us we have already been glorified in him. In Jesus Christ we have already been honored; dignified; exalted to glory, and bestowed with the same glory that God bestowed upon his resurrected and ascended Son.
 - Galatians 3:27—we have been clothed in the splendor of Christ.
 - Ephesians 2:6—we have a position with Christ in the heavenliness far above all principality, power, might, and dominion.
 - Ephesians 1:3—we have been blessed with all spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus.
 - Romans 8:17—we have been make joint-heirs with Christ.

The Future Aspect of Our Glorification

- Romans 8:18—there is suffering now but glory later. In the context Paul explain how and why we suffer as believers. We live in a world that is groaning and trailing under the curse of sin and we are not immune from suffering. Hope of this future glory is what gets us through the suffering, according to Paul.
- Colossians 3:1-4—the next time Christ appears we will appear with him in glory.
- Titus 2:13—we are to be looking for our blessed hope that is tied to the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ.

- I Corinthians 15:51-53—this corruptible flesh that is subject to the bondage of corruption (Rom. 8:21) will put on incorruption. This mortal flesh that is subject to death and dying will put on immortality.
- Philippians 3:21—we will exchange this vile body for one that is fashioned like the glorious resurrected body of Jesus Christ.
- Ephesians 1:18—we will be used of God to inherit the heavenly places.
- It is this hope of future glorification that allows us to stare down the gun barrel of our eventual demise with hope and joy knowing that the suffering of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.
- The present was never designed to satisfy man. That it does not, as matter of fact, is attested by the consciousness of all. Let the character of the present and the extent of the future be what they may, the present fails to satisfy, and it is for the future the heart sighs and yearns. How the child of two or three aspires to the school-boy's lot; the school-boy pants to be a youth, the youth to be a man; and the man, be his circumstances what they may, finds not in those circumstances what satisfies and fills his heart, but reaches after that which the future holds out to view. It is not in man to be satisfied with the present. True, indeed, his aspirings may be limited to the present state of being. But his present portion in this state of existence is not that which contents him: it is the future which he expects to do so, even if it be a future here — a future within the precincts of this narrow world and this short life. It is for the future, not the present that man actually lives; just as we have seen that it is for the future, not the present, man was made. At least thus much is true, that what we hope for is that which we possess not at present. And it is thus that hope becomes such a stimulus to exertion, such a solace in affliction, such a light amid surrounding darkness, such a stay when no other stay remains. Extinguish hope, and happiness is gone. Let the faintest glimmering of hope remain, and man's misery is not complete. And what more powerful in its influence than hope? It is the hope of harvest that cheers the husbandman in his toil. The exile is sustained in his wanderings by the hope of once more beholding his beloved country. It is in the hope of revisiting his native shores that the mariner ploughs the deep and braves the storm. The merchant is stimulated by the hope of gain — the student by the prospect of success — the warrior by the hope of conquest, and perhaps of spoil. Take away from these the hope of securing the objects they severally pursue, and all motive to exertion or endurance is withdrawn. Rob that mother of the hope if seeing her children happy and esteemed, or at least the hope of their being so, whether she should live to see it or not, and what do you leave to support her amid her daily and nightly anxiety and toll? Ah! it is thus that, even in this world, hope goes beyond the limits of the individual's life, and leads men to live and to act for a future in the well-being of their offspring, when their own career on earth shall have come to a close. And hope, even in respect to things of this life, sweetens the bitterest cup, and sustains under the heaviest load of present calamity and grief.

Conclusion

- The whole point here, in the context of Romans 8:30, is that for those who “love God,” everything will ultimately work out okay, because God has predetermined this course for anyone who will believe. This does not mean that God has plotted every detail of the believer’s life in advance. It means that within the framework of these boundaries of being predestinated to Christ’s image, called into His service, justified and glorified, the Christian has great liberty to serve God in a variety of ways.
- We see then that as believers we have been freely: predestinated, called, justified, and glorified.