

Glorification

I. The Final Stage of Salvation

- **The Culmination of the Journey:** Glorification is the final step in the process of salvation, following justification (freedom from the penalty of sin) and sanctification (freedom from the power of sin).
- **Removal of the Presence of Sin:** This stage represents the complete and permanent removal of the presence of sin from the believer's life and environment.
- **A Guaranteed Certainty:** Unlike earthly hopes, glorification is presented as a "sure thing" and a "guaranteed certainty" because it is rooted in the finished work and resurrection of Jesus.

II. The Nature of the Glorified Body

- **Physical Resurrection:** Glorification involves a literal, physical resurrection where believers receive new, perfected bodies.
- **Freedom from Decay:** These resurrected bodies will no longer be subject to the "groaning" of creation, meaning an end to sickness, aging, and physical limitations.
- **Conformed to Christ's Likeness:** Believers will be perfectly conformed to the image of Jesus, sharing in the type of resurrected body he displayed after his victory over death.

III. The Resolution of Current Tension

- **Faith Becomes Sight:** The "tension" experienced during sanctification—where believers struggle between their new nature and the "cultural creep" of a fallen world—is finally resolved.
- **End of Suffering:** Present trials and "light and momentary troubles" are contrasted with the "eternal weight of glory" that awaits the believer.
- **Restoration of Design:** Humanity is restored to its original, intended design, fully capable of reflecting God's glory without the distortion of sin.

IV. The Impact on Present Living

- **Motivation for Endurance:** The promise of future glory provides the "grit" and motivation needed to endure current suffering and remain faithful in the "marathon" of sanctification.
- **Perspective Shift:** Understanding glorification helps believers view their current struggles through the lens of eternity, knowing that the best is yet to come.
- **Hope as an Anchor:** This doctrine serves as an anchor for the soul, protecting the believer from apathy and despair in a broken world.

V. Conclusion: The Eternal Reality

- **Perfect Fellowship:** The ultimate goal of glorification is unbroken, face-to-face fellowship with God for all eternity.
- **A New Creation:** This transformation extends beyond the individual to a "new heaven and a new earth" where righteousness dwells.
- **The Victory of the Gospel:** Glorification is the final proof that the Gospel is truly "good news," as God completes the work he began in the believer.