

# GLORIFICATION

## INTRODUCTION

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- Definition: Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like his own (Grudem, 828)
- Definition: The last stage in the process of salvation, namely the resurrection of the body at the second coming of Jesus Christ and the entrance into the eternal kingdom of God. In glorification believers attain complete conformity to the image and likeness of the glorified Christ and are freed from both physical and spiritual defect. Glorification ensures that believers will never again experience bodily decay, death or illness, and will never again struggle with sin. (Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms, 55)

Upon a life I did not live, upon a death I did not die, I risk my whole eternity and the resurrection is the why.  
Charles Spurgeon

The resurrection of Christ is the most joyful event that ever came to pass.  
Jonathan Edwards

## DEATH AND THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

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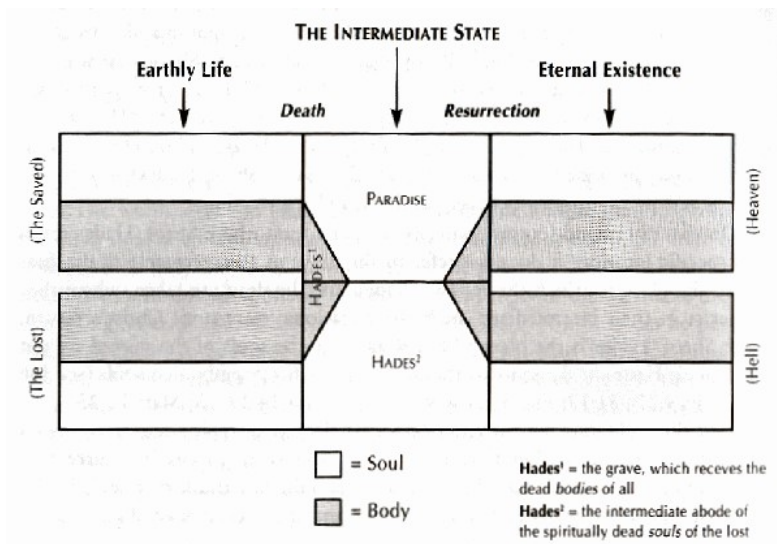
- What happens when believers die?
  - The Bible does not teach the doctrine of purgatory
  - The Bibles does not teach the doctrine of soul sleep
  - So what happens when believers die? → the souls of believers go immediately into God's presence
  - Death results in the temporary cessation of bodily life and a separation of the soul from the body
  - A believer's physical body remains on the earth and is buried while his soul goes immediately into the presence of God
- 2 Corinthians 5:8** ~ we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord
- Philippians 1:23** ~ But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better
- Luke 23:43** ~ And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."
- Although some have said that the souls of OT saints did not enjoy the blessings of heaven, the Scriptures do point to OT believers being in the presence of the Lord as well:
- 2 Kings 2:11** ~ As they were going along and talking, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.
- Psalms 23:6** ~ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**Matthew 17:3** ~ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

**Matthew 22:32** ~ ‘I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.

**Luke 16:25** ~ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.

- So, for believers who die before the return of Christ, their soul goes to be with the Lord in heaven, while their body remains in the earth awaiting it’s redemption
- Thus, the intermediate state is not the same as our glorified state



## BIBLICAL DESCRIPTION OF GLORIFICATION

- Scripture tells us that God made human beings both body and soul together...an outer and an inner self:

**Genesis 2:7** ~ The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature

**2 Corinthians 4:16** ~ Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

- Therefore our ultimate perfection demands that both body and soul be renewed
- God never intended people to live indefinitely as disembodied spirits
- True, believers who die go to be with the Lord and in the intermediate state do not have a body...death results in the separation of the body and the soul...our bodies go to the grave and our spirits to the Lord
- But this is not how it will be forever...someday the bodies of believers will be resurrected and joined to their spirits and they will enjoy the eternal perfection of body and soul
- The creation of a new heaven and earth demands that we have bodies...a physical earth calls for its inhabitants to have physical bodies

**Romans 8:30** ~ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

**John 5:28-29** ~ Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

**John 6:39-40** ~ This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

## **Deliverance from Corrupt Bodies**

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- Salvation is more than just being delivered from hell...it involves a complete transformation into the image of Christ, including our bodies
- And when that happens, the combination of a redeemed spirit and a glorified body will enable us to perfectly manifest the glory of God as He created us to do
- Our transformed bodies will permit us to finally be the perfect creation that God intended us to be

The great, final hope of Christians is not to die and be freed from our bodies, but to be raised with new glorious bodies, like Christ's resurrection body

John Piper

**Romans 8:23** ~ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body

- Paul says here that all of creation, and even we ourselves, groan and wait eagerly for everything to be made new, including our bodies
- Ever since the fall of man with Adam and Eve in the garden, mankind and all of creation has been looking forward to the day when everything will be made new
- While we have been made a new creation in the inner man, that inner man is incarcerated in unredeemed flesh...our fallen humanness and its lusts remain with us
- In a sense our salvation is not complete...we are still waiting eagerly for the redemption of our bodies

**Philippians 3:21** ~ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory

- When Christ comes He will “transform” (*metaschematizo*) our bodies in their fashion and appearance...a complete renovation
- And He will bring them “into conformity with the body of His glory” which means that our bodies will literally have the same form (*symmorphos*) as Christ's body
- Christ will take our bodies and shape them into conformity to His body which will involve not just an outward, superficial change, but a complete change from the inside out

**1 Thessalonians 4:14-17** ~ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

- Notice the order of events here: 1) The dead in Christ will rise first and will receive their resurrection bodies; 2) Those alive at Christ's appearing (Rapture) will receive their resurrection bodies

- Several passages indicate that there is some sort of continuity between our present earthly bodies and our future resurrection bodies (i.e. that our resurrection body will be our earthly body made completely new):

- It is our actual earthly bodies that will be made new:

**Romans 8:11** ~ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your **mortal bodies** through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**Philippians 3:21** ~ who will transform **the body of our humble state** into conformity with the body of His glory

- Our earthly bodies are considered the “seed” of our glorified bodies:

**1 Corinthians 15:37-38** ~ and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

- Believers will apparently recognize each other in heaven:

**Matthew 8:11** ~ I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven;

**Matthew 17:3** ~ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

- But there will be a discontinuity with our earthly body as well

**1 Corinthians 15:39-41** ~ All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one *flesh* of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the *glory* of the earthly is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

- Paul’s point here is that God has arranged the universe such that various bodies are adapted to a variety of kinds of existence
- That bodies exist in a great variety of forms some adapted for one existence, others for another
- Paul wants us to understand that God perfectly fits bodies for their purpose and existence
- Earthly bodies are fit for earthly existence; heavenly resurrected bodies are fit for heavenly existence
- The variety in Creation reflects this fact

**1 Corinthians 15:42-49** ~ So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*; 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. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*. 45 So also it is written, “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

- Our glorified bodies will be: 1) Imperishable (vs. 42); 2) Raised in glory (vs. 43); 3) Raised in power (vs. 43); 4) A spiritual body (vs. 44)

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54** ~ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 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 will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

- This is what happened with Christ's body...He died...His body was placed in the tomb...but when He was raised to life, He received a new body, a more glorious body (continuity and discontinuity...same but different)
- Christ's resurrection body was his same earthly body but made perfect and more glorious in every way
- It was His same body raised back to life...it wasn't in the tomb after His resurrection...He was not merely an apparition or a phantom (Luke 24:39)
- He looked human in every way...He talked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus and they never once questioned His humanity
- His body had the same nail marks in his hands and feet...same wound in His side
- It was a real body...He could be touched (Luke 24:39)...He talked...He ate with disciples (Luke 24:41-43)
- His body was recognizable (Luke 24:31)
- But it was different too...in the garden, Mary Magdalene didn't recognize Him: John 20:14 ~ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus
- There was something unique and different about Jesus...Christ's resurrection body had supernatural qualities...He appeared and disappeared at will
- He could pass through solid walls (John 20:19)
- He could suddenly appear out of nowhere (Luke 24:31, 36) entering rooms without opening the door
- He could appear in different forms so His identity was not immediately obvious (Mark 16:12)
- He could ascend into heaven in bodily form (Acts 1:9)
- The resurrection changed Jesus' body in marvelous and radical ways
- Our bodies will be exactly like that...they will be real, physical, genuinely human bodies—the very same bodies we have while on this earth—yet wholly perfected and glorified
- His resurrection body guarantees our resurrection body
- And the bodies that believers will possess in the age to come will be of the same nature as Christ's own resurrected and glorified body
- Christ's resurrection body is a promise and guarantee of our resurrection body
- He was the firstfruits from the dead: 1 Cor 15:23 ~ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming
- So Christ's resurrected body is the prototype of our resurrected body
- In many ways it will be the same (continuity) – they will still be our bodies
- But in many ways it will be different (discontinuity) – they will be changed marvelously and radically
- See we just have to look at Jesus' body to know what our resurrection bodies will be like

## **Deliverance from Sinful Flesh**

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1 John 3:2 ~ when He appears we shall be like Him

Revelation 21:4 ~ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

## **Deliverance from a Cursed Earth**

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**Romans 8:19-22** ~ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

**Revelation 21:1** ~ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth...

## **Deliverance from Satan and His Forces**

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**Revelation 20:10** ~ and the devil ... was thrown into the lake of fire...