

## Assurance of Salvation Part 71

God's Glory:  
The glory that God gives us

## EVERY follower of Jesus wants to glorify God.

- But God has a "glory" we cannot give him:
  - = His moral glory, who he is.
  - = The visible manifestation of his presence.

### AND IN THE FUTURE:

- We will have a "glory" we cannot earn:
  - = the end result of salvation.

## Review: God's Radiant Glory

(Last week, we looked at one small aspect of God's glory: its physical manifestation.)

- Old Testament time period:  
God's presence was visibly seen.
  - It was seen as radiant light, though often veiled by fire or clouds (Exodus 16:10b; 24:16a, 17).
  - It resided in the temple for several centuries, but left when the nation rejected God and refused to repent of their sin (2 Chron. 7:3; Ezekiel 11:23 and context).

- New Testament time period:  
God's presence was visibly seen.

- It manifested itself in the form of a human, in Jesus Christ (John 1:14; 2:11; Hebrews 1:3).
- The physical brightness of God's glory was hidden from view (except for one instance – Matthew 17:1-9).
- People's response to Jesus was the same as their response in the Old Testament: The nation rejected Jesus, and he left them (Matthew 23:37-39; Acts 1:9-11; 2 Cor. 4:4).

- Today and in the future:  
God's presence is (and will be) visibly seen.
  - Jesus' radiant glory is no longer hidden. Those who are in his presence see it (Rev. 1:13b-17; 1 John 3:2b; Rev. 22:3b-4 and Matthew 5:8).
  - The day is coming in which all people everywhere (dead or alive) will see Jesus in all his glory (Philip. 2:9-11; 1 Peter 4:13b; John 17:24; Rev. 1:7).  
(This will include all aspects of his glory, not just the physical brightness.)

(Today's topic)

## God's glory in us

- This is an aspect of "glory" that God gives to us, not we to him.
- God's plan is for his presence/glory to be seen in us!
  - As a group and as individuals.
- Our main focus here is on God's moral glory:
  - We are to be a reflection of who he is and what he is like.

## God's presence in us as a GROUP

!!! He is present in the church. !!!

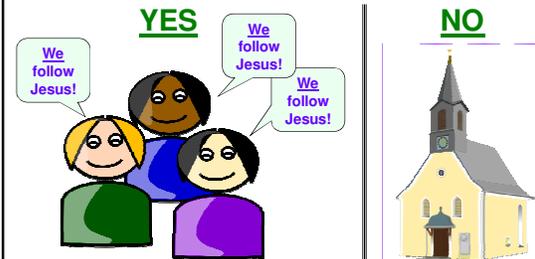
### What do we mean by "church"?

The Bible's concept of "church" contains *only* those who he has called unto salvation – the *genuine* followers of Jesus. (These people have the "fruit of salvation" in their lives.)

We are NOT referring to the various "institutions" that people have invented and call "church." These often contain fake "Christians."

- Want an easy-to-remember definition? ↴

## "CHURCH" =



## As a GROUP...

- God has a special **presence in the church**: The Spirit of God indwells his people *as a group*.

"Where two or three have come together in my name, I am there among them."

Matthew 18:20 (GW)

- God's presence is **not perfectly displayed** in us, because we have not yet attained perfection.
  - It varies, depending on the extent that we follow Jesus – trusting and obeying him from the heart.

## As INDIVIDUALS...

- God is working on us as *individuals*, to remove this imperfection.
  - The final part of this change will occur when Jesus returns. This final change is called "**GLORIFICATION**"!

### • THE FINAL OUTCOME:

[To God] be *glory in the church* and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephes. 3:21 (ESV)

## God is at work in us!

... you also, *like living stones*, are being built into *a spiritual house* ...

US!

1 Peter 2:5a (NIV)

CHURCH!

If the *church* is likened to a building, then we are the building blocks!

THIS STONE MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH... BUT I'VE GOT GREAT PLANS FOR IT!



## What are the changes?

- **God created** us perfect, "in his image," to be a *reflection* of who he is (Genesis 1:26-27).
  - This is a MORAL issue, encompassing all of our values and actions.
  - This is why it's *impossible* to follow Jesus and to still love sin.
- **We destroyed** our ability to do this, when we chose to sin.

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ...

Romans 3:23 (ESV)

- **God is restoring** what was lost, by working in us to make the necessary changes.

... and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Col. 3:10 (ESV)

★ **This is the goal of salvation.** ★  
**"Glorification" is the final part of the process.**

And we... are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Cor. 3:18 (NIV)

## GLORIFICATION:

### The FINAL part of our salvation.

(Romans 8:28-30 )

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.

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. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30 (NIV)

- We don't deserve salvation; but God has great plans in store for us!
- Here we see that God's sovereignty and human responsibility work together.

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Romans 8:28-30 (NIV)

- God planned that we would become like Jesus.
- The sovereignty aspect of salvation guarantees it will happen to those who love God! No need to worry!

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Romans 8:28-30 (NIV)

- What God planned, he began in our lives. What he began in our lives, he will finish.
- We aren't there yet; but in God's eyes, it's as good as done!

## Does this mean we're going to radiate light, like Jesus?

(who is described in Revelation 1:13-17)

- **Maybe...**
  - Moses' face glowed, after he was exposed to God's glory (Exodus 34:33-35).
  - The prophet Daniel and Jesus both say the day will come in which the righteous will "shine like the sun" (Daniel 12:3; Matthew 13:43).
  - We know that our bodies will be changed at the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15).
- **If we do radiate light at that time, it will be only because we are a reflection of Jesus.**

## Why can't we give a more definite answer?

- **Scripture's main emphasis** is on how we should respond **NOW**, not on details about **LATER**.
  - If we ignore the "now," there will be no "later."
- **Our focus** is to be on the moral changes that **must** take place before that time!
  - Our main concern is not "glowing," but "growing" in godliness!

**Focus on our "NOW" obligation, and leave the future to God.**

- **Our obligation?**

But just as [God] who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written:  
 "Be holy, because I am holy." \*  
1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

- **Why?**

... those who are not holy will not see the Lord.  
Hebrews 12:14b (NLT)

\* YES, it's a command. YES, it's not easy.  
 YES, your "old self" will constantly fight back.  
 But God offers us the power – his Spirit – to grow in holiness.

**SALVATION** is a process of

- There are past, present and future aspects of salvation.
- The end result is glorification, but *all three aspects* will occur in the lives of those who follow Jesus.

Sign: Felix Burton (CC-BY 2.0), modified

**Salvation in the PAST:**  
**The process began.**

– Includes JUSTIFICATION, NEW BIRTH, etc.

**= DONE!**

... he saved us, ... because of his mercy... through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ...  
Titus 3:5 (NIV)

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.  
1 Peter 1:23 (NIV)

**Salvation in the PRESENT:**  
**The process continues.**

– This is called SANCTIFICATION.

**= IN PROCESS!**

... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you\* ...  
Philipp. 2:12b-13a (NIV)

\* God's sovereignty and human responsibility are working together!

... be transformed by the renewing of your mind.  
Romans 12:2b (NIV)

**Salvation in the FUTURE:**  
**The process is completed.**

– This final step is called GLORIFICATION.

**= NOT HERE YET!**

... for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.  
1 Peter 1:9 (NIV)

... our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.  
Romans 13:11b (NIV)

**YOUR MISSION:**

**REMEMBER THE ISSUE**

- If you want to be glorified in the future, you need to focus on the "NOW" part of salvation!
- Following Jesus involves moral conduct – values and actions.
  - This is why, when God saves people, moral changes begin to occur in their lives.

## YOUR MISSION:

### REALIZE WHAT GOD IS DOING

- God is working to accomplish these moral changes in the lives of those who love him!
  - God began working on you...  
= SALVATION PAST
  - He is continuing to do so...  
= SALVATION PRESENT
  - And he will complete what he began!  
= SALVATION FUTURE

## YOUR MISSION:

### RESPOND APPROPRIATELY

- Don't fight God, but show your willingness to change! (= The "now" part of salvation.)

This "command" to obey is merely an "echo" of the desire that is already present in the hearts of those who are following Jesus.

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