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# Sermon Notes

November 1, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

## God is For Us: Glorification

1 Corinthians 15:51-54, Romans 8:23

### Finishing Touches

- ❖ The final phase of God's long-range plan for those who are His is glorification
- ❖ Two questions:
  - what does it mean to be glorified?
  - when will glorification take place?

### WHAT Does It Mean To Be Glorified?

- ❖ The glorification of the believer refers to a future moment when **all** who are in Christ will receive resurrection bodies
  - the human body is perishable, and it **CANNOT** inherit the imperishable
  - our current bodies are suited and equipped for life on earth, **NOT** life in heaven
- ❖ Just like our bodies, Jesus' earthly body was comprised of flesh and blood

- as is the case with our own bodies, Jesus' body had to be transformed before He could return to His Father
- illustration from agriculture (1 Cor 15:42-44)
- ❖ Neither the living nor the dead will go into the kingdom as they are when Christ returns

### WHEN Will This Happen?

- ❖ All who die in the Lord before Christ comes back have the assurance of 2 Corinthians 5:8 that to be *away from the body* is to be *at home with the Lord*
  - our spirits leave our bodies and are made perfect in holiness as they pass immediately into the presence of the Lord
  - however, the glorious transformation all believers experience at death is not the final state of glorification
- ❖ The moment of our glorification is synonymous with the moment when "*Death is swallowed up in victory.*"
  - the last enemy to be destroyed is death (1 Cor 15:26)
  - death will not be swallowed up in victory until Christ returns
  - when death is swallowed up in victory, we will put on immortality as our spirits are clothed in our new, glorified, sin-proof bodies
- ❖ Glorification is the complete, final redemption of our whole person: body AND spirit
  - fully and finally conformed to the image of our risen, exalted, glorified Lord (Philippians 3:21)

- a rollback to God’s original design: a perfect synthesis of having a perfect soul encased within a perfect body
- *we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*
  - in the smallest possible amount of time our perishable bodies will be made imperishable
  - imagine the force of power that is unleashed as God changes your earthly, perishable, corruptible body into a spiritual, imperishable, incorruptible body!
- ❖ Glorification is something all Christians will experience together at the same identical moment!!!
  - no one will get to the finish line of salvation ahead of anyone else
  - death is very individual, each of us has an appointed day on which we will die (Psalm 139:16)
    - but glorification is a corporate experience
    - together, we will simultaneously become the pure, undefiled, spotless bride of Christ
- ❖ As a group, we were
  - chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world
  - redeemed in Christ by the blood of the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world
  - made alive together with Christ and raised up with Him and seated with Him in the heavenly places (Eph 2:5-6)
- ❖ As a group, Christ will present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle... (Eph 5:27)

- ❖ Our blessed hope (Titus 2:13)
  - *Maranatha!* = Come Lord!
  - *as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*
- ❖ Develop a confident assurance about what lies ahead as you wait for the moment when you and all of Christendom will be glorified in a moment (1 Peter 4:12-13)

<h3>Personal Application</h3>
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1. To what extent does your expectation of glorification fill you with confidence and joy even in the midst of difficult, trying circumstances? Are there ways that you can or should be refreshing your mind and spirit with these truths that might give you greater confidence and joy? How will you do that?
2. Read 1 Peter 4:12-13. Are you more likely to “be surprised” or not “to be surprised” when fiery trials come along to test you? What do these verses call you to do so that you can be better prepared for trying times and not see them as an abnormal intrusion in your life?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15 in its entirety and rejoice in the many promises God reveals to you in this magnificent passage.