



## Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

“Death, Glorification, Unification: What happens to our Body, Soul and Spirit?”

Lesson 8 – Glorification, New Testament Evidence

April 2, 2017

### I. Lesson Starters:

What does “glorification” mean and how does it affect my physical body? How does glorification fit in with God’s “total redemption”? Have you ever thought of burial verses cremation and whether it affects your resurrection state? When do I get my “glorified Body”?

### II. What is Glorification, Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Christ’s redemption of the Believer is not just for our Soul and Spirit, but also **the whole Person**, which includes our Body! God’s total work of redemption will not be complete until we are reunited with our Bodies. This requires our bodies to be set free from the effects of the fall, sin and death. Our bodies being brought into a state of perfection is the final act of Christ’s redemption for the believing Christian.

#### Romans 8:23-24

***23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?***

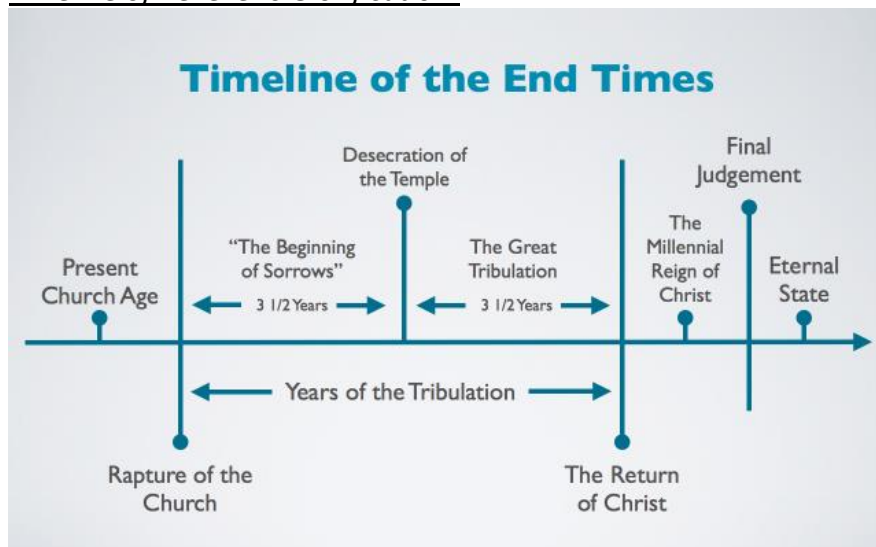
#### Romans 8:17-18; 21, 30

***17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us....21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God....30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.***

- Paul is tracing the steps of total redemption; the last step is glorification

*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.*

Timeline of Believer’s Glorification:



Special Note:

1. Some evangelical Christians hold that believers and non-believers will be resurrected at the same time (Amillennialists).
2. Others (Premillennialists) hold that the resurrection of believers occurs at the time of Christ's return before the millennium and the resurrection of the unbelievers occurs at the time of the Final Judgement after the millennium period of 1,000 years.

### III. New Testament Evidence for Glorification

Primary scriptures dealing with glorification or the "resurrected body" is 1 Corinthians 15:

#### 1 Corinthians 15:12-27; 35-57

**12** But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. **15** More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. **19** If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. **20** But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **22** For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. **24** Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **27** For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ.

#### The Resurrection Body

**35** But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" **36** How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. **37** When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. **38** But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. **39** Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. **40** There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. **41** The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. **42** So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; **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 it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. **46** The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. **47** The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. **48** As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. **49** And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. **50** I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— **52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. **54** When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." **55** "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- When our bodies are raised from the dead we will experience complete victory over death that came as the result of sin from Adam and Eve
- Paul discusses the order of resurrection in verses 22-23
- Paul discusses the nature of the resurrection body in verses 35-50 (we will study this in another lesson in 2 weeks)
- He concludes by saying that not all Christians will die before Christ's return
- Current bodies will be instantaneously changed into new, resurrection bodies that never grow old, weak or die since they are no longer a part of the fallen world which we currently live

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17**

***13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.***

- Verse 17 only makes sense if it is the souls of the believers who have previously gone into Christ's presence who return with him and it is their earthly bodies that are raised from the dead to be joined together with their souls; then ascending with Christ
- Job 30:19, Gen 18:27 and Gen 3:19 all speak of the man being "reduced to dust and ashes" and "I am nothing but dust and ashes" and "dust you are and dust you will return too".

### **John 5:26-29**

***<sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.***

### **Romans 8:11**

***<sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.***

### **Philippians 3:20-21**

***<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.***

## **IV.**

### **Group Questions:**

1. Did you consider Christ's resurrection and heavenly ascension as "completely fulfilling" his victory over death? Did you consider him resurrecting believers with a "glorified Body" as the final triumph of Christ over death?
2. Talk about God's redemptive work of us and what steps are involved? Before this lesson did you include or consider that you having a resurrected body was part of it?
3. With respect to our resurrected bodies, have you thought about burial verses cremation and whether it makes a difference? Look at comments about Job 30:19, Genesis 18:27 and Genesis 3:19, do these scriptures add insight into whether Christians should be concerned about cremation of our bodies?
4. What are your beliefs with respect to when Believers are resurrected and how that relates to unbelievers?