

Christ in You, The Hope of Glory

Today we are going to look at “The Hope.” In this case we are going to start off with Colossians, chapter one.

Colossians 1:25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil [*plēroō*] the word of God; **26** *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: **27** To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

There are two aspects here. 1st is “*Christ in you...*” This is something that occurs at the time when a person confesses Jesus as lord and believes in their heart that God raised him from the dead. At that moment, a person becomes a complete person of body, soul, and spirit. [**1Thess 5:13**] They pass from death unto life everlasting. They receive the gift of holy spirit and have 9 abilities, or 9 manifestations that are now available to operate as mentioned in **I Corinthians 12:7-11**.

The 2nd part of **verse 27** says.... “*the hope of glory.*” Some texts read, “the hope of **the** glory.” Hope anticipates, whereas believing appropriates. The love of God activates both believing and hope. Hope is always something that is still future; something that is not available right now, thus it cannot be believed for. Take Christ’s return, no amount of prayer, no amount of believing will bring him back. He will come back to gather us together when the Heavenly Father sends him back. This is **the hope** of the future glory that God wants us to have - in great measure.

The Greek word for “glory” is *doxa*, and it means: “*honor, praise, worship.*” Also, when *doxa* is used in the context of being “glorious” it includes dignity and glory such as in **Philippians 3**.

Philippians 3:21: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned [*transformed*] like unto his glorious [*doxa*] body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

In this context, when Jesus Christ returns to gather together the Church, our earthly bodies will be transformed into a body like his glorious body. This new body is the one that Jesus received after God raised him from the dead. This is so much to look forward to! This will be the new body that we will have throughout all eternity! But having this new body is only the beginning. There is a *glory to come* after the gathering together.

During His earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus Christ spoke of events that were yet to come—events that, even today, have not yet come to pass. These remain future realities that will be fulfilled in God's perfect timing. Jesus communicated these prophetic truths to His disciples, including the following:

Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Christ in You, The Hope of Glory

Jesus was speaking of realities that were future when He spoke them, and they remain future today. These things have not yet come to pass. Verse **30**, particularly the references a glory to come: "...they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Another significant record in the Gospels is found in **Matthew 25**, where Jesus speaks of His coming in glory and the judgment that will follow.

Matthew 25:31: When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: **32** And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: **33** And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. **34** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: **35** For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: **36** Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

As stated in verse 31 – "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." This is still ahead. At that future time, Jesus Christ will separate the people—just as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. Let's continue with Matthew 25, starting in verse 32.

Matthew 25:32-33 – And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: **33** And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left."

To those on His right hand, He will declare: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." These are events that were future when Jesus spoke of them, and they remain future today. They have not yet been manifested. Confirmed also from the Gospel of Mark:

Mark 13:23-27 - But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

The word for angels in the NT is the Greek word **angelos** = messenger, agent, angel. The messengers referred to in the Scriptures were either spirit messengers (angels) or human messengers, who were sent by God, by Satan, or by people. **The context** indicates which kind of messenger is being referred to. Here it refers to messengers of Jesus Christ who are to be with him at his coming, which may include not only spirit beings but also those in the Church who will have been gathered together by that time.

Once again, Jesus Christ spoke of His future glory—a glory that had not yet come to pass when He spoke these words, and a glory that remains future today. These records consistently indicate that his

Christ in You, The Hope of Glory

coming in glory is yet to be fulfilled. Even after Christ's ascension, the apostles continued to teach about the glory yet to come. Here, Peter by revelation wrote:

1 Peter 1:11: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

Jesus Christ is already seated at the right hand of God—He is God's second in command, His "right-hand man." Yet, even though He is seated in glory, He has not yet returned with His angels, nor has He separated the sheep from the goats. That event remains future.

1 Peter 4:13: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

His sufferings have already been revealed. But His glory, as described in the Gospels and epistles, is still future.

1 Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed.

At the time Peter wrote this, Christ's glory had not yet been revealed, and even today, it still has not been revealed in detail. There is *a glory yet to come*. The Apostle Paul also spoke about this coming glory as something that believers in the Grace Administration will obtain.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation [*deliverance*] through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: **14** Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are called to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ—a glory that has not yet been revealed.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. **15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17** Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. **18** Wherefore comfort one another with these words

The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ is certain, but it is still to come. It was future when Jesus spoke of it in the Gospels. It was future when Peter and Paul wrote about it by revelation in their epistles. And it remains future today. We rejoice in hope, knowing that when His glory is revealed, we will partake in it with exceeding joy! Let's look at I Corinthians 15 from the Working Translation by Walter Cummins:

I Corinthians 15:51 (WT) ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery. Not all of us will fall asleep, but we shall all be changed ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet. In fact, the trumpet will

Christ in You, The Hope of Glory

sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ Moreover, it is necessary for this corruptible *one* to be clothed with incorruptibility and for this mortal *one* to be clothed with immortality.⁵⁴ When this corruptible *one* is clothed with incorruptibility and this mortal *one* is clothed with immortality, then the Word that has been written will come to pass: ^{Isaiah 25:8:} **“Death was swallowed up in victory.”**

We patiently wait for God’s only begotten Son’s return. We joyfully anticipate his return. Even though we have never seen the Lord Jesus Christ in person, our wonderful Savior, we rejoice with joy unspeakable.

1Peter 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** Who are kept [*protected*] by the power of God through faith [*believing*] unto salvation [*deliverance*] ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season [*short time*], if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: **7** That the trial of your faith [*believing*], (being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire), might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: **8** Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: **9** Receiving the end [*outcome*] of your faith [*believing*], *even* the salvation [*deliverance*] of *your* souls [*psuchē* = *used here to refer to the whole person*].

What a wonderful Savior we have! Peter was with Jesus on the Mount when he was transfigured before him, along with James and John (**Matt 17:2ff, Mark 9:2ff**). He saw Jesus with his new body that he obtained when God raised him from the dead. Yet, this was just one aspect of glory to come. We’ve seen also that there is a glory to come. We’ve seen that we too, that will have new bodies like unto his glorious body. There will be some rewards handed out. After that, we will return with him, along with the angels, after the gathering together. We will partake in his glory as he is seated on his throne. For it is Christ in us NOW, and the HOPE of our future glory!