

Discussion questions, “The Hope of Glory”, Romans 8:18-25

Other passages: Gen. 3:4-5; Ps. 8:5-6; 73:24; Romans 1:18-23; 5:2; 8:29-30; 1 Cor. 15:41-43; 2 Cor. 3:7-18; Rev. 21:23-26.

1. Read Romans 8:18-25. What is the Apostle Paul saying in this passage? Can you put it into your own words? How does this compare with your current view of heaven?
2. (Gen 3:1-7; Phil 2:1-11) How did Adam and Eve aspire to the glory of God? How did Jesus receive glory?
3. (John 12:23-26) What does Jesus say here about glory and honor?
4. (2 Cor. 4:4-6) In what ways does salvation enable us to see the glory of Christ? What have you found attractive or beautiful about Jesus?
5. (2 Cor 4:17) What is the relationship between the afflictions of this life and the glory to come? How are we to respond to these sufferings?
6. (Rev 18:7) What are the characteristics of “self-glorification”? Where do you see this in our culture? In ourselves?
7. (Rev 21:23-26) Summarize what you think the Bible is teaching us about the final glorious condition of the Christian. (See also 1 Cor 15:35-57) How can you best prepare for that day?

Quotes to ponder...

“Grace is but glory begun, and glory is but grace perfected.” (Jonathan Edwards)

“The promise of glory is the promise, almost incredible and only possible by the work of Christ, that some of us, that any of us who really chooses, shall actually survive that examination, shall find approval, shall please God. To please God... to be a real ingredient in the divine happiness...to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in a son—it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is. (C. S. Lewis, “The Weight of Glory”)

“At present we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door. We discern the freshness and purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the splendors we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumor that it will not always be so. Some day, God willing, we shall get *in*. When human souls have become as perfect in voluntary obedience as the inanimate creation is in its lifeless obedience, then they will put on its glory, or rather that greater glory of which Nature is only the first sketch. (C. S. Lewis, “The Weight of Glory”)

“Remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no *ordinary* people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.” (CSL)

“The Weight of Glory” (1942) can be downloaded from here: <http://www.doxaweb.com/assets/doxa.pdf>