

**TRIUMPHANT LIVING**  
**Taught by Don Maurer**  
*“God’s Glory and Our Glorification”*  
**December 20, 2013**

Everyday but especially, Lord, at this time of year we stop to think of that first night, which really was not very silent as far as the world and surrounding towns were concerned but it was holy. It was holy because You sent Your only begotten Son Who left the glories of heaven to come into this sin-cursed world to live a life we have not lived; to suffer a death that we deserve so that we may be clothed with Your righteousness and inherit eternal life. Lord Jesus we thank You that You became poor but for our sake so that we may become rich. So, Father, we pray that as we study this subject of glorification and Your glory that, Father, only Your truth would be preached and that if there is anything that I say amiss, Lord, that would not register to us but only Your truth would prevail. Lord, may the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord our Rock and our Redeemer for we pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Well, it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas, is it not? I heard the Chia Pet commercial last week, {LAUGHTER}. You always hear that this time of year, but I haven’t heard the Clapper commercial this year and I have heard the lottery, “Best wishes from the lottery” since September practically. {LAUGHTER}

Sig did say that on national television, Celine Dion sang “O Holy Night” and that is wonderful but my observation is that Christmas is getting more and more secular. Several years ago one of the rock stations thought it had to do it’s Christmas thing, played “Silent Night” and then right after, back-to-back, it played “Imagine” by John Lennon. Something does not compute there, something is not quite right there.

What does this have to do with our subject on glorification? Well, everything, doesn’t it? When Bruce told me to teach the subject of glorification, I kind of swallowed hard and said, “Whoa, that’s a big one,” and it is. But you know it has everything to do with Christmas because this is what Christ came for, isn’t it...to glorify God by redeeming a people for Himself? To glorify God in the salvation and glorification of sinners. And how did He do this? He came as a baby; He came to suffer and to die. I think of that Christmas carol, “I Wonder as I Wonder out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die.” You know the world by and large would just leave Him as a baby, wouldn’t they? A lot of people, maybe as Celine Dion as Sig said or I think of the old artists...Andy Williams, Frank Sinatra, Perry Como they all sing about the birth of Christ, but none of them as far as I know sing about the death or resurrection of Christ let alone any other hymn. Very interesting phenomena there. A babe in a manger is nice and cute and sentimental and unthreatening; and I’m not trying at all to diminish the poignancy of that, of course it is a poignant thing that our God came to earth and humbled Himself the way He did; but, nevertheless, we don’t want to stop there.

So, I’m going to be talking this morning about glorification and God’s glory first because God’s glory is paramount. We cannot talk about our glorification without referring to God Who has all glory in and of Himself. So, that is why I have entitled this study God’s Glory and Our Glorification.

What is this thing called “glory.” We have some scriptures here that I would like to read first and then I’ll comment and even ask some questions. Feel free at any time to ask questions or make comments of your own. Sig, would you read Isaiah 6:1-4?

“In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood Seraphim, each one had six wings; with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried out to another and said, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.” OK, the whole earth is filled with His glory.

Tom, would you read Luke 2:8-9, a very familiar part of the Christmas account?

“In the same region there were shepherds out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were filled with fear.” OK, the glory of the Lord shown around them.

Mike Davis, would you read John 1:14? “The Word became flesh, and made His dwelling among us, we have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

OK, we have seen His glory. Now those are just a smattering of scriptures that talk about this subject of glory. Glory is one of those religious words that we say sometimes without really knowing what it means. Some of you in some churches and in my church we do it sometimes...we say what is called The Glory of Paltry, which is a very ancient second century hymn. “Glory be to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, as it is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”

What do we mean by this term “glory?” If someone were to ask you what do we mean by the glory of God what would you say? That’s a tough one, isn’t it?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Radiance.*

OK, good.

**STANLEY:** *Righteousness.*

Righteousness, OK, that’s part of it. Radiance, Righteousness...anything else?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Honor and praise.*

Honor and praise, OK. Any other?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Light.*

Light and that would go along with radiance. Good.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Reverence and perfection.*

Good, we’re getting close.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Emanation of awesome holiness.*

Whew, I like that, Shawn. I'm impressed: emanation of awesome holiness. The Hebrew is [UNCLEAR], which in the Greek is doxa from which we get the word "doxology." It is kind of hard to say it, but Shawn...I like all the answers...but I think Shawn you hit it on the head: emanation of perfect holiness. The root word for glory is weightiness or heaviness. Now we are not talking physically but it is God's essence of His being is that He is important, He is weighty, He is heavy...I hate to use the word awesome, it is an overused term. Rich Mullins who came up with a song called "Our God is an Awesome God" and I think he had every good intention but, unfortunately, people would say, "Well, my girlfriend is really awesome." "My new car is really awesome." The Puritans actually said, "God is awful." Now I realize that can be misunderstood too because in our vernacular "awful" means "bad." God is anything but bad. He is goodness, He is the perfect goodness. But Isaiah says, "I will not give my glory to another." It is this significance of God; it is what makes God, God. It is very much related to His holiness. Let me ask you a question.

Yes?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *I've just been reading John Rodgers' book for the second time. He says, "God's glory is all of His attributes put together."*

Very good definition. I just wonder if the shepherds or the apostles saw all of that when they looked at the glory of God, probably.

Now what ramifications, what implications does this have for how we approach God and worship Him? If God is glorious, if God is the sum of all of His attributes, as Bill just said. If God is to be regarded as holy, weighty, and significant, what does that say about how our worship is supposed to be?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Prostrate.*

Yes, fall on your knees, the Christmas carol says. Fall on your knees. I think that many of us, even we who are Christians, have a very low view of God's holiness and glory. Now society, of course, unbelievers, have no view of it and they hate it. But I think that even many of us who are Christians sometimes have a very low view of God's glory. It has been said that God made man in His image and man has returned the favor; we have reduced God. How many times for example have you heard someone say refer to Jesus as their buddy? Now I have no problem in singing, "What a Friend Have in Jesus" but we have to be very, very careful that we make sure that we know that "Friend" with a capital "F." Christ has condescended to be our Friend but He is God. What is Christ's first petition in The Lord's Prayer? Not "give us this day our daily bread," but "Hallowed be Thy Name." In other words, Lord may You be glorified. OK?

People who did not glorify God suffered consequences. In fact, some of them...no pun intended...suffered grave consequences. Like Nadab and Abihu, right? They were killed for offering profane fire to the Lord. Pharaoh and Herrod who refused to give God glory. And Nebuchadnezzar even though he wasn't killed, went crazy, acted like an animal because he refused to give God glory and he thought he was the end all, and be all. So this question of God's glory, which leads to our glorification, is very important.

Now I have another question for you. The Westminster Shorter Catechism, question number 1 says, that the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Now, how do we glorify God...let me ask it this way and a friend of mine suggested that I pose the question. Do we add anything to God's glory? No. Why not?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Because He is all glory...*

Yes, He's all glory...

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *John the Baptist answered that He must increase and I must decrease...*

Yes, exactly. I have heard people say, "Well God created the world and the universe and people because He was lonely. That is nonsense, it is almost heresy. He was not lonely; He had all love in and of Himself. Everything He needed, He had all love and fellowship within the Godhead itself...the Trinity, which is just a beautiful and glorious doctrine. He has everything in and of Himself, He is self-sufficient. He is in need of nothing, and yet He requires us to worship Him and we are to glorify Him, not in the sense that we add anything to Him but we as God's image bearers...and that is what makes man significant...we are made in His image. People from PETA for example, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals what is their motto, their original motto was: A rat is pig, is a dog, is a boy or girl." In other words, there is no difference between animals and people intrinsically. Of course, that is the whole false teaching of evolution, isn't it? There is really no difference...you would not believe what I heard last week from Al Mohler on one of his speeches on the Glory of God as I prepared for this. He said there was a woman, a feminist, with whom he was speaking who was a vegan and a vegetarian...and that is fine if that is what you are into...but she said that she even heard the tractors in the fields gathering up the wheat and she said, "I could hear the wheat scream." I just wonder what other stuff she was hearing or smoking. {LAUGHTER} This kind of thing is rampant in our society.

No, God has created man in His image and don't you see that it is the glory of God that gives man value and we as His image bearers, we as His people are to reflect that glory; that is why sin is such a terrible thing. That is why sin is so serious. Sproul calls it cosmic treason because when we sin...no matter the slightest sin...the slightest evil thought or the most heinous crime...what do we say? That God is like that. God is a liar. God is an adulterer. God is a murderer, etc.; because we bear the image of God and we are to reflect God in our conduct. So that is what the glory of God is all about. I hope that we have a little bit of the sense as we go into this subject of glorification that we know and believe that our God is holy, our God is glorious and worthy of all worship.

Any questions or comments before we go on to the subject of glorification.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *If we could go back to your first question about the glory, the word that just popped into my mind was Shekinah and it is such a significant word and such a significant situation where Moses was gathering the tablets and the glory was so brilliant on him that the people said, "Put something over your face because we cannot bear to see it." It gives us such a word picture that the Shekinah glory of God is so pure, so radiant, so perfect that sinful man cannot bear to observe His glory.*

Yes, that's right. Can you image...I'll be talking a little about that in just a few minutes. Imagine what the people's reaction was seeing Moses...seeing his face shining the way it did. Very good point.

**SIG:** *Don, can I ask a question that falls to Bob's comment? When the letter to the Hebrews talks about Christ being the radiance of God's glory, I've got to think from what you just said that helped me connect two things: so what Moses was radiating was something significant, right, but then when Christ comes into the world, even though He radiates God's glory wasn't it that people wanted Him to cover it up but they did not want to be in some ways either. You know what I mean...it was kind of a different kind of radiance...I'm not sure if I fully*

*understand that but I think in light of what Bob just said...that it causes me a little...I don't fully understand that but I think, how those two fit? Some people just didn't want to be around Christ, right? The Pharisees wanted to kill Him soon after He began His ministry.*

Even the apostle Peter, remember his first reaction when they caught the fish? "Depart from me, I am a sinful man O Lord." I don't think he saw anything special; I mean after all the Bible says there was nothing comely about Him that we should desire Him. I love "Silent Night" but there is a verse in there that I'm not sure of..."Thy radiant beams from Thy holy face." I think he looked like any other baby, but anyway be that as it may. Yes, I think you have a point there, Sig. It says that Christ and we because we belong to Christ are the aroma either of life or stench of death. So I think that you are hitting on something there. And I can't fully explain it either but, yes, people were either repelled by Christ or drawn to Him by the grace of God.

Yes, Carl?

**CARL:** *In light of what Bob was just talking about and what Sig was hitting on, I'm drawn back to the transfiguration of when Jesus went up to the mountains...*

I'm going to cover that...

**CARL:** *I was just going to say that it's like when Peter, James and John...it just shows you the humanness of man and the glory of Who God is because when Jesus got to the mountaintop, and if you remember...I know you do...that He took off his raiment of flesh and that is when the Shekinah glory of Who He was started to shine all around and what Peter says, "It is good for us to be here." And Peter decides that he...he said, "let us build tents for everybody" But God said, "No, you need to take a chill pill, Pete." {LAUGHTER}*

Is that the KJV...the Karl Jones Version? {MUCH LAUGHTER}

**CARL:** *And His Son is the express example of Who He is as we are supposed to be the express example.*

Amen. We don't do a very good job much of the time but that is exactly what we are supposed to be.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *[UNCLEAR]For me one word says it all: incarnation. The Word of the Father, now in flesh appeared. [UNCLEAR] image...He is God.*

Amen. Amen. God in the flesh, God man forever. Can you imagine the condescension. Christmas is a celebration for us, but for Christ it was the ultimate humiliation. Think of it. He is God in heaven receiving all praise, all honor, millions...maybe billions of angels...Seraphim and cherubim, old testament saints...and then He becomes man in the womb of the Virgin Mary; He is a baby which means...I don't want to be graphic...He needed to be changed, He was hungry, He had to learn how to walk and to talk, He had to learn how to play stick ball or whatever they played in those days. He had to learn everything, all the while knowing that He is God and then we wonder sometimes if God really loves me.

**KEVIN:** *One think that I think is amazing about our group is that you look at every other Godly [UNCLEAR] I think it is the essence of the Trinity...[UNCLEAR] Christianity, love proceeds [UNCLEAR]. Allah is a lesser God created out of need, whereas our God created purely out of love. When we use the word "love" we usually mean Agape. [UNCLEAR] Out of the four different Greek translations of the word "love" could mean, He uses*

*the word Agape which means self-sacrificing. It is not Eros, it is not Phileo, it is nothing like that; it is Agape [UNCLEAR] and that's what makes God glorious.*

Oh, yes. The Doctrine of the Trinity is crucial, Kevin. Thank you. And James' wife, the Reformed Baptist wrote a book called "The Forgotten Trinity" and I think many people...we hear this nonsense, "Muslims, Jews, Christians they all worship the same God. No, no, no, no, no. We worship a God Who is triune. Who has all fellowship and love within Himself and created for His glory.

Let's move to the subject now of power glorification and this is when Bruce asked me to teach this last week, he said this is a neglected doctrine. I tried to ponder that as to why that is, and I think it is because we live in America. After all if you're suffering as many of our brothers and sisters are in other parts of the world and the way things are going in this country...we may in a few years, I don't know...you don't really tend to think of heaven but we are to set our affections on things above, where Christ is seated at God's right hand. But if things are going well for us...we complain when the remote doesn't work or I complain when the computer doesn't work or I can't get that bargain I'm looking for when Christmas shopping. I remember when they were called Negro spirituals and that is not politically correct to say that any more; but for example, "No body knows the trouble I've seen, nobody knows but Jesus" and then the whole song talked about how wonderful heaven will be, "Swing low sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home." In other words, people who suffer look forward to this glory. That is what we were created for beloved. That is what we were created for...for God's own glory, "I do it for my own sake for how should my name be profane?" But this is what we have been created for...glorification. Now what is glorification? It means that whenever drop this sinful flesh, either by death or if we are privileged to be here when Christ comes back and we put on that perfection that Christ longs for us.

I often wonder what are Elijah and Enoch experiencing right now; they did not have to die. Maybe it is a preview of what we are going to experience. But it is really great. Now what are the previews of this glorification and Karl brought it up a little bit. Let's look at Exodus 33:18-23, and Kevin would you read that for us on the handout?

Exodus 33:18-23: "Then Moses said, 'please show me your glory! And He said, 'I will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim for you My name the Lord; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy to whom I show mercy.' But He said, 'You cannot see my face, for no man can see Me and live.' Then the Lord said, 'Behold, there is a place by Me, where you shall stand there on the rock; and while My glory passes by, I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you will see My back, but My face shall not be seen.'"

Man, that is an awesome passage...and there I said it...awesome. Boy, I'm guilty of what I accuse other people. That is a really interesting passage and of course that inspired the Fannie Crosby hymn, "A Wonderful Savior is Jesus My Lord. He hideth my soul in the cleft of the Rock and covered me there with His hand." The glory that Moses saw part of that...as he comes off the mountain and his face is radiant to the people that said, "Put a veil over your face because we're afraid...we don't want to see that." Can you imagine what it is going to be like, for example, to see the Lord Jesus. Oh my, but that was a preview.

Now Moses said, Lord I've seen many things; I've seen Your deliverance from Egypt; I've seen the plagues that You gave the Egyptians to show Your power; I've seen the manna; I've seen water gushing up from the rock, but Father I'm not satisfied. Lord show me the big one; show me Your glory." But even God said, "You cannot

see my glory for no one can see me and live, but I will show you part of it. I will show you my back, I will show you literally my hind quarters” and that was enough to make Moses shine.

**SIG:** *Why would man not live if he saw God’s glory, or in His presence?*

Why do you think?

**SIG:** *Obviously we talk about sin...so God’s glory would kill sin? I don’t understand.*

It would kill us. We are sinners and we have no right to look upon God. That was taken away from us when Adam and Eve sinned in Eden. Remember what it says...the angel with the flaming sword...removed Adam and Eve from God’s presence? That is something that we have been denied and now we can no longer see God. Of course, Christ did show Himself in the old testament in what we call Theophanies...glimpses and we see what Moses experienced...we’re going to talk about the transfiguration. But no one can see God. John in his first chapter says that no one has seen God at any time; meaning God in His full unveiled glory. Which we will get to see in glory I believe but we will talk about that a little later. That is why, Sig. God is the pure eyes in beholding iniquity and if we were to see Him, it would be the end of us because of our sin.

**SHAWN:** *A few verses come to mind when you mentioned Exodus 7 [UNCLEAR] and there is a verse in Daniel 10 [UNCLEAR] and another one in Revelation 1 [UNCLEAR] that had a very similar description where they describe a human-like figure whose face shines like a son....*

Yes, that is Christ and what happened to John when he saw Him...he fell down as one dead, right? Yes, that is a common occurrence...these are previews...

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Well, what happened on the Mount of Transfiguration?*

OK, well let’s read that now. Sig, would you like to read that for us Mark 9:2-4.

“And after six days, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His clothes became radiant and intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them; and there appeared with Him Elijah and Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.”

OK, now of course, seeing Elijah and Moses was one thing; I’m sure the apostles were just astonished; but seeing Jesus in His unveiled glory and what did Peter say? “It is good for us to be here.” It does say they were afraid when they heard the voice of the Father, but they didn’t want to leave. It was so unbelievable and glorious that they did not want to leave. These are previews of glorification and, guys, I’m going to have to go a little overtime...I’m sorry but there is some other stuff that I want to cover. Whoever needs to leave at 7:30, feel free but I’ll have to go at least five minutes over.

Peter never forgot this. He said, “We did not follow cleverly devised fables or fairytales when we talk to you about the glory of Christ and what we saw. But we saw Him and heard the Voice.” Then he goes on to say, “The Word of God is even more sure than that...” But that is something that Peter never, ever, ever forgot. John must have had this in mind when he said, “We beheld His glory.” And you know, the unbelievable thing, Beloved, this is what Jesus wants for us...that is what He wants for us.

Bill McCoy would you read John 17:24, please? “Father, I desire that all those you have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that You have given Me because You love Me from before the foundation of the world.” OK, this is the joy of heaven. What do you think of when you think of heaven? What do most people think of? Well, I’m going to be reunited with my loved ones, and we will talk about that in a few minutes. Or I hear even sillier things and it is not silly to want to be reunited with your loved ones, of course not. But I hear silly things like, “He is up there playing rounds of golf, or he’s up there riding a motorcycle, or he’s up there eating...if you are from Pittsburgh...kolbossi sandwiches.... Is that really what heaven is all about? No. I am going to talk about, in a few minutes, the fringe benefits of heaven but, Beloved, the thing that makes heaven, heaven is that we are going to be with and see God in all of His glory. Not like Moses who saw part of it or even like the apostle John, but we are going to see Christ in all of His glory...the beatific vision is what it is called. And, Brothers, I can only imagine what that is like. He’ll be the first person I see, unbelievable, and Lou as well. We will see God, we will see God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let’s read 1 John 3:2, Tom could you read that for us? “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared but we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.”

We “shall see Him as He is.” I can’t even comprehend what that will be like. The very thing that was taken away from Adam and Eve and us because of our sin, is going to be restored. Presumably now, the souls of those who are in glory or are already beholding the Lord Jesus Christ. I do not know what kind of communication there are between spirits who have no bodies but there is something there. Paul said to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. And that is the glory of heaven...what makes heaven, heaven. What Augustine said and Ted Wood has referred to this at times. Augustine said, “If you could be for all eternity in a place where you had every physical desire that you want and all the food you wanted, every joy that earth could give, the joy of friendship, no pain, no suffering, but not God, how would you feel? The answer to that question determines how you view heaven. That is what the majority of people think of when they think of heaven; but, no, it would be hell if God were not there. That is how we should think. That is how we should view things.

Are there other benefits? Yes there are. Let me go over them very briefly. One benefit is that we are going to be for the first time in our lives without sin in glory. Without any sin. It is not that way now. Those who teach that you can be sinless in this life...I believe they are dead wrong. For the first time...and see it is so hard for us to comprehend that because everything that we do and everything that we think is permeated with sin...even our best works, and it says God is pleased with such works of service, but yet even those are tainted with sin. And yet in glory we are going to be without sin and for the first time we are going to be able to worship God perfectly and it won’t be boring; it will be the most glorious thing we have ever done for all eternity and we will be without sin for the first time.

Not only that, but Mike you read Revelation 21:1-4: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as the bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be there God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes; and there will no more death, nor mourning or crying, or pain; for the old order of things have passed away.”

Oh, man, can you imagine? God Himself will be with us and He will be our God, and He will wipe every tear from our eyes. Now we men like to put on this brave macho front...what is the old Four Seasons song of the 1950s...Big boys don't cry. I'm sorry but Jesus cried, it is not a sin to cry. This world is a veil of tears but God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. And no more crying; no more pain; no more sorrow; no more death. And not only that but there are some scriptures that are just unbelievable. Let me share them with you. I have them written down and you can look them up yourself.

Zephaniah 3:17: "God will rejoice you with gladness; He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." If that weren't in the Bible, I would never dare to utter such a thing and yet, that is what God says He will do. Wow, incredible!

Luke 12:37: Jesus says this about that great time of glorification for those who are Christians, for those who are ready to meet Him. "Assuredly I say to you..." Now when Jesus says "assuredly" or "truly, truly" pay attention. "Assuredly I say to you, He" That is the son of man. "He will gird Himself, have them sit down to eat and come serve them." Can you believe that? Now this is the same Jesus as in the Book of Luke who said that after we have done all our duty, we are unprofitable servants...we have only done our duty and yet He says we are going to sit down and we are going to eat and He is going to serve us. It says we are going to serve Him in the new heaven and the new earth...but unbelievably He is going to serve us. Can you believe it? Wow!

Will there be fellowship when we are glorified? Yes. It says, He is going to serve us and there is going to be a feast.

He says in Matthew 8:1. "Many will sit down from north, south, east and west with Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob and feast in the Kingdom of God." So will there be food, yes, I think that is literal...I don't see why it would not be. It talks about the marriage supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19. There will be fellowship, it will be a fellowship that we have never known on earth, where there will be perfect love. We sing at weddings, "O Perfect Love" but we don't have perfect love...even among believers; but in heaven, in glory we will. It is a multitude that no one can number. Yes, Jesus said it will be few, probably compared to the majority of mankind, but it will still be many. Jesus said, "I came to give my life a ransom for many." There will be many there.

I have not spoken much about...and I will conclude with the resurrection. The resurrection is vitally important. The Book of Romans says, all creation groans. That all creation in our glorification will be redeemed. There will be no more natural disasters, there will be no more disease, there will be no more of anything that would keep us from the grandeur and the glory of being with God and experiencing His love forever and ever. Even the creation itself is going to be changed into the glory of God. The apostle Paul says in Philippians that when Jesus comes and the resurrection takes place that our bodies are going to be transformed into His glorious body. I can only imagine what that will be like. I can only imagine, for example, what that would be for my brother, Aaron who was racked with cancer and died last year, my buddy Aaron. I can only imagine what it would be like for people I used to work with at Robinson Developmental Center whose limbs and bodies are shriveled; whose minds, whose intellects...who had the intellect of a two or three year old and what their bodies that will be transformed will be like. I can only imagine what that must mean for people in nursing homes. Incredible.

Paul says in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15 and I will conclude with this: "Behold I tell you a mystery, we shall not all sleep,..." Die that is. "... but we shall all be changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality. When this corruptible has put on incorruption and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written ‘death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O Hades where is your victory?’ **AMEN? AMEN!**

Father, what can we say, what can we say but Thank You. What can we say, Lord, undeserving sinners who were dead in our trespasses and sin. Who sin every day, every minute. What can we say to such a great salvation? What can we say, Lord, but Thank You for coming to earth, for accomplishing this for us. Father, the words of Isaac Whatt’s hymn come to my mind, “Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.” And all the Brave Men said, “Amen.”

Bill McCoy would you read John 17:24, please? “Father, I desire that all those you have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that You have given Me because You love Me from before the foundation of the world.” OK, this is the joy of heaven. What do you think of when you think of heaven? What do most people think of? Well, I’m going to be reunited with my loved ones, and we will talk about that in a few minutes. Or I hear even sillier things and it is not silly to want to be reunited with your loved ones, of course not. But I hear silly things like, “He is up there playing rounds of golf, or he’s up there riding a motorcycle, or he’s up there eating...if you are from Pittsburgh...**kobossi** sandwiches.... Is that really what heaven is all about? No. I am going to talk about, in a few minutes, the fringe benefits of heaven but, Beloved, the thing that makes heaven, heaven is that we are going to be with and see God in all of His glory. Not like Moses who saw part of it or even like the apostle John, but we are going to see Christ in all of His glory...the beatific vision is what it is called. And, Brothers, I can only imagine what that is like. He’ll be the first person I see, unbelievable, and Lou as well. We will see God, we will see God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let’s read 1 John 3:2, Tom could you read that for us? “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared but we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.”

We “shall see Him as He is.” I can’t even comprehend what that will be like. The very thing that was taken away from Adam and Eve and us because of our sin, is going to be restored. Presumably now, the souls of those who are in glory or are already beholding the Lord Jesus Christ. I do not know what kind of communication there are between spirits who have no bodies but there is something there. Paul said to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. And that is the glory of heaven...what makes heaven, heaven. What Augustine said and Ted Wood has referred to this at times. Augustine said, “If you could be for all eternity in a place where you had every physical desire that you want and all the food you wanted, every joy that earth could give, the joy of friendship, no pain, no suffering, but not God, how would you feel? The answer to that question determines how you view heaven. That is what the majority of people think of when they think of heaven; but, no, it would be hell if God were not there. That is how we should think. That is how we should view things.

Are there other benefits? Yes there are. Let me go over them very briefly. One benefit is that we are going to be for the first time in our lives without sin in glory. Without any sin. It is not that way now. Those who teach that you can be sinless in this life...I believe they are dead wrong. For the first time...and see it is so hard for us to comprehend that because everything that we do and everything that we think is permeated with sin...even

our best works, and it says God is pleased with such works of service, but yet even those are tainted with sin. And yet in glory we are going to be without sin and for the first time we are going to be able to worship God perfectly and it won't be boring; it will be the most glorious thing we have ever done for all eternity and we will be without sin for the first time.

Not only that, but Mike you read Revelation 21:1-4: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as the bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Look, God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be there God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes; and there will no more death, nor mourning or crying, or pain; for the old order of things have passed away."

Oh, man, can you imagine? God Himself will be with us and He will be our God, and He will wipe every tear from our eyes. Now we men like to put on this brave macho front...what is the old Four Seasons song of the 1950s...Big boys don't cry. I'm sorry but Jesus cried, it is not a sin to cry. This world is a veil of tears but God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. And no more crying; no more pain; no more sorrow; no more death. And not only that but there are some scriptures that are just unbelievable. Let me share them with you. I have them written down and you can look them up yourself.

Zephaniah 3:17: "God will rejoice you with gladness; He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." If that weren't in the Bible, I would never dare to utter such a thing and yet, that is what God says He will do. Wow, incredible!

Luke 12:37: Jesus says this about that great time of glorification for those who are Christians, for those who are ready to meet Him. "Assuredly I say to you..." Now when Jesus says "assuredly" or "truly, truly" pay attention. "Assuredly I say to you, He" That is the son of man. "He will gird Himself, have them sit down to eat and come serve them." Can you believe that? Now this is the same Jesus as in the Book of Luke who said that after we have done all our duty, we are unprofitable servants...we have only done our duty and yet He says we are going to sit down and we are going to eat and He is going to serve us. It says we are going to serve Him in the new heaven and the new earth...but unbelievably He is going to serve us. Can you believe it? Wow!

Will there be fellowship when we are glorified? Yes. It says, He is going to serve us and there is going to be a feast.

He says in Matthew 8:1. "Many will sit down from north, south, east and west with Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob and feast in the Kingdom of God." So will there be food, yes, I think that is literal...I don't see why it would not be. It talks about the marriage supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19. There will be fellowship, it will be a fellowship that we have never known on earth, where there will be perfect love. We sing at weddings, "O Perfect Love" but we don't have perfect love...even among believers; but in heaven, in glory we will. It is a multitude that no one can number. Yes, Jesus said it will be few, probably compared to the majority of mankind, but it will still be many. Jesus said, "I came to give my life a ransom for many." There will be many there.

I have not spoken much about...and I will conclude with the resurrection. The resurrection is vitally important. The Book of Romans says, all creation groans. That all creation in our glorification will be redeemed. There

will be no more natural disasters, there will be no more disease, there will be no more of anything that would keep us from the grandeur and the glory of being with God and experiencing His love forever and ever. Even the creation itself is going to be changed into the glory of God. The apostle Paul says in Philippians that when Jesus comes and the resurrection takes place that our bodies are going to be transformed into His glorious body. I can only imagine what that will be like. I can only imagine, for example, what that would be for my brother, Aaron who was racked with cancer and died last year, my buddy Aaron. I can only imagine what it would be like for people I used to work with at Robinson Developmental Center whose limbs and bodies are shriveled; whose minds, whose intellects...who had the intellect of a two or three year old and what their bodies that will be transformed will be like. I can only imagine what that must mean for people in nursing homes. Incredible.

Paul says in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15 and I will conclude with this: “Behold I tell you a mystery, we shall not all sleep,...” Die that is. “... but we shall all be changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality. When this corruptible has put on incorruption and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written ‘death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O Hades where is your victory?’” **AMEN? AMEN!**

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