

Title: Finally, Glory!
Passage: Rom 8:18-30
Date: 16 Oct. 22
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Series: See God's Glory

Read Rom 8:18-30

Part of the challenge of my role is being with people as they age and significantly decline.

Several of our older folk find they are losing movement, clarity of mind, energy. Their life is being diminished little by little, with not certainty of what is next.

It's not the death they are afraid of. They cannot wait to be with their Lord in glory.

It is the dying which deeply tests them. How do you persist? How long do you need to be patient when it may have been years already?

How are we Christians to think in times like this?

How are we to keep hope?

The past weeks we have heard the story of God's Glory.

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We experience glory when something or someone moves us to a powerful sense of praise, awe, respect, honour, or thankfulness.

God in his power seen in creation moves us to glorify him.

In creation God gave humanity glory – the glory of being made in his image and given his authority over creation to do good.

But humanity exchanged this glory in pursuit of life apart from God. Not glorifying God as God, and instead glorifying created things.

God revealed his glory to Israel through his mighty acts, displaying his just and gracious character and setting in place the place for his glory to rest in the order of worship and temple.

In living as God's faithful people Israel was to reflect this glory to the world as a light to the nations.

But Israel exchanged this glory in rejecting God's ways and pursuing other God's.

God's glory is proclaimed at the birth of Jesus. He was the one present at creation, now made flesh, God dwelling among us. The disciples saw his glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. This glory of was seen in Jesus' words and acts, although it was veiled. At the

transfiguration Jesus glory as God's true Son is revealed. At the Cross Jesus glorifies his father through obedience, On the third day the Father by his glory, glorifies his Son by raising him from the dead. Before Pentecost Jesus was taken up into glory. Stephen and Paul saw the glorified Son seated at the right hand of God. Apostle John in his Revelation sees Jesus in his full glory as Lord of the church and ruler over all things.

And then finally God is seen in all his glory, the people of God reflecting the glory of the Son, creation renewed in all its glory and then finally the whole earth is full of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

This is God's story of Glory.

Our story of glory.

And the story echoed through Rom 8

It tells the story of loss of glory felt by creation

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- V20 subject to frustration...
- Like wild animal. Power, beauty...groans, destruction, suffering

But subject to frustration...in hope

- What waiting for?
- The freedom and glory of the children of God.

This is the glory of becoming like God's true Son Jesus, conforming to his image, and therefore fit to share in his dominion over creation.

Creation is groaning, waiting to be brought into this glory. To benefit from the wise loving rule of God and his people.

Not only is Creation groaning. We are groaning

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V23 we feel the tension between reality now and the hope to come.

- Wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship
- The redemption of our bodies. When we are taken from these frail, decaying bodies into bodies like the resurrected Son
As Phil 3 20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 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.

A body that death and decay will never touch again..

This hope puts our current reality into perspective.

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V18 that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

[pastoral

It is the hope dying Christians share.

It is what helps us in midst of suffering,

Death is not what Christians fear.

How do we make sense of the suffering?]

For now, we groan, we suffer, we wait. We pray.

How we practice now becoming like God's true Son and sharing in his rule is our prayer for a world in pain, and for the glory to be revealed.

- [slide] V26, 27

We take responsibility for a suffering world in prayer.

We use words, we use groans.

God's spirit within us is making us ready to share in his glory. We are marked as God's people, by our secret prayers.

[Pastoral]

So Paul is able to write what has become a treasured passage by Christians.

V28-30 [slide]

God is in charge, he can bring good whatever happens. In all creation and in you

- He can call us, he can draw us to him
- He can conform us to the image of his Son
- He can justify us, making us right with him and declaring we belong to his family
- The goal of it all is he can glorify us.

And then finally the people of God will reflect the glory of the Son, creation be brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God, And finally, God will be seen in all his glory, and the whole earth will be full of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Doxology [slide]

Rom 11

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and[i] knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?"[j]

35 "Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?"[k]

36 For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Response/Prayer/Care cards