

# Called To Glory

Sunday April 7, 2024

**II Peter 1:10** states, “...give diligence to make your calling and election sure.” “Calling” means “invitation,” and “Election” is Gr. *eklogē*. Which means: “selecting or choosing, referring to that which is picked out. The Church epistles tell us of God’s calling and choosing of those who have believed regarding Jesus Christ. To make those things sure or steadfast as it is spoken of here is with reference to their walk of doing the things listed in the verse above so that they would not stumble. We won’t have the time to go through each verse today, but we will look at **Verses 2 and 3**.

**II Peter 1:2** Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, **3** According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

In **Vs 2**, God’s grace is not only added to our lives, it is **MULTIPLIED** unto us! That’s a lot of grace and peace! It is exponentially multiplied, i.e.  $2 + 10 = 12$ . But  $2 \times 10 = 20$ . You can reach the number 100 much faster by multiplying. It’s faster and easier than by adding. God’s multiplies His grace and peace to us.

So, how does God multiply this grace and peace to us? As it continues in Verse 2, “...through the **knowledge of God**.” Where do we find this knowledge? In **HIS WORD**. It is God’s holy, matchless Word that we find it. Furthermore, it states that it is through this knowledge of His Word that we see our calling to glory and virtue.

First of all, let’s look at the word, “virtue” (Greek = *aretē*), which means “moral excellence, or course of thought and action.” God has called us to a moral course of excellence by and in our words and actions.

“Glory” should read: “..His own Glory.” The word for “glory” is (**doxa**) in the Greek text, and refers to something that will occur in the future. It is referring to the excellent preeminence that is to come beginning at gathering together when Jesus Christ returns. There will be a wonderful **doxa** = glory of magnificence, excellence, and dignity and grace that will exhibited by God toward us, through us and in us at the moment of the gathering together of the Church to which you and I belong to. God not only promises these things to us through His Word, He also explains it many times. One such occurrence is in Colossians 1.

**Colossians 1:26** 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 [**doxa**] of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory [**doxa**].

The word “hope” is very significant as well. Hope always refers to something that is future. We can **believe** for things that are available today, but we can only **hope** for things that are still in our future. We can believe that what God has promised, He is able to perform. That’s available for us today. We can believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and be saved. That is available today. God has put his gift of holy spirit within each born again believer, today. That is, “...Christ in you (right now), which is the hope of glory,” which is still future. Our hope is the glory [**doxa**] to come. Another place that God talks about this is in I Thessalonians.

**I Thessalonians 4:13** But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep [**have died**], that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

Again, the specific usage of the word “hope” is very significant. Remember that it always refers to that which will happen in the future. We don’t need to sorrow at someone’s passing as those who have no hope sorrow, because we know what the future holds. Let’s just see what is still future for us as we continue to read this section of I Thessalonians 4.

**14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep [have died] 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 [precede] 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 trumpet 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.**

What a fantastic event! This “gathering together” was never discussed in the Gospels. Why not? Because it wasn’t available to know this mystery until it was revealed to the Apostle Paul later on in the 1st century. God is telling the Church, to which you and I belong to, the specifics of the event that is still future. What else does God say in His Word about the return of Christ to gather us together unto him? The difference between this part of Christ’s second coming, and the part that Jesus taught, is that this is Christ coming FOR his saints. The second part of his second coming is when he comes back WITH his saints. The time and space to discuss this in detail is limited in this Bible study right now. But the details can, and should be discussed at a later date. In the meantime, let’s look at what else will happen when the hope of our glory (*doxa*) occurs.

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

Today, as we all know so well, our physical bodies are called by God as “vile” bodies. Vile means inferior. They are inferior because they aren’t perfect. Our bodies wear out with time. Our bodies are limited. **HOWEVER!** When Jesus Christ returns, that all changes! Because he will change, or convert our current inferior bodies to be fashioned like his current glorious body!

Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. His dead body was made alive by God and he was resurrected from the dead with a brand new body. As we have discussed in previous Bible Study segments, this resurrected spiritual body that Jesus had after his Father raised him from the dead is truly amazing. One moment Jesus could be talking to two men on the road to Emmaus, the next moment he shows up in the room with the other disciples. His body was unlimited in scope and activity! This is the same type of body that he will change our bodies into at the time of the gathering together. I Corinthians 15 from the Working Translation describes this further.

**I Corinthians 15:35<sup>(WT)</sup> However, someone will say, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup> Oh foolish one! What you sow is not made alive unless it dies, <sup>37</sup> and what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to become, but *you* sow a bare seed of grain. Perhaps it is of wheat or of some other *grain*, <sup>38</sup> but God gives it a body even as He wants to, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. <sup>39</sup> Not all flesh *is* the same flesh, but one *is* human, and another *is* the flesh of domestic animals, and another *is* the flesh of birds, and another *is* of fish. <sup>40</sup> There are also heavenly bodies and terrestrial bodies. However, the glory [*doxa*] of the heavenly *is* different from**

that of the terrestrial. <sup>41</sup> *There is one glory [doxa] of the sun, and another glory [doxa] of the moon, and another glory [doxa] of the stars. In fact, a star differs from another star in glory [doxa].* <sup>42</sup> So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption. It is raised with incorruptibility. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor. It is raised in glory [doxa]. It is sown in weakness. It is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body. It is raised a spiritual [of the spirit] body. If there is a natural body, *then* there is also a spiritual. <sup>45</sup> So it has also been written: <sup>Genesis 2:7:</sup> **“The first human, Adam, became a living soul.”** The last Adam [Jesus] became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual was not first, but the natural was. Then came the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first human was from the earth, made of earth. The second human was from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As the one made of earth was, such also are those who are made of earth, and as the heavenly one is, such also are the heavenly ones. <sup>49</sup> Even as we have worn the image of the one made of earth, so we shall also wear the image of the heavenly one. <sup>50</sup> Now this I say, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruptibility.

This record now changes to speak of the future change in the physical nature of people who have already received the gift of holy spirit. There are two categories discussed in the following passage, namely, those who are flesh and blood (mortals) and those who have died and corrupted (corruption).

<sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery. Not all of us will fall asleep [die], but we shall all be changed <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet. In fact, the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> Moreover, it is necessary for this corruptible one to be clothed with incorruptibility and for this mortal one to be clothed with immortality. <sup>54</sup> 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: <sup>Isaiah 25:8:</sup> **“Death was swallowed up in victory.”** <sup>55</sup> <sup>Hosea 13:14:</sup> **“Oh death, where is your stinger? Oh state of death, where is your victory?”** <sup>56</sup> The stinger of the death is the sin, and the power of the sin is the law, <sup>57</sup> but thanks be to God Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, become steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your hard labor in the Lord is not vain.

This section of Scripture is so wonderful in describing that wonderful hope of glory that is to come to each and every one of us who are part of the one body of Christ! Another place in the epistles written to the Church to which all Christians belong to is in II Thessalonians.

**II Thessalonians 2:1<sup>(WT)</sup>** Now with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together up to him, brothers, we ask you <sup>2</sup> that you not be hastily shaken in mind or disturbed, neither by spirit nor by word nor by an epistle as *if it were* from us, as saying that “the Day of the Lord is present.” <sup>3</sup> Do not let anyone deceive you in any way, for *that day will not be present unless there first comes the departure and the man of lawlessness* <sup>{Or/ sin}</sup> is revealed, the son of destruction.

The departure referred to here is explained in verses 6-8 as the removal of a restraint. Verse 1 began this discussion with regard to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering up together to him. This passage in chapter 2, taken together with the previous verses in the first chapter, suggests that the “departure” refers to the gathering together of the holy ones, which precedes both the appearance of the lawless one and the Day of the Lord. In addition to this, God has promised that the future wrath will be something that we are not going to have to endure. This is also discussed in the epistle to Romans and to the first epistle to the Thessalonians.

**Romans 5:9** Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

**I Thessalonians 5:9** <sup>(WT)</sup> Because God has not appointed us to wrath but to the acquisition of salvation [*deliverance*] by our Lord Jesus Christ.

The wrath of God is something associated with the Day of the Lord in the Scriptures as it is here in verse 9. Wrath is going to be horrendous. God states plainly that those who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved from this future wrath. Well, if we have been saved from it, then we are saved from it!! So those who promote that we have to go through wrath are wrong in their teaching, or God's Word is wrong. My bet is that the Word of God is right! They are wrong in what they teach, and lead believers astray.

Christ will return for us, his Church to gather us together unto him, "...and so shall we ever be with the Lord." This is our future glory to come. It is definite and absolute. It is completely unchangeable because it is established by God Himself. What a comfort! What a joy! To know that we know that we know, that God's Word is true. That He means what He says and says what He means. He has made this hope of glory steadfast for us.

**Revelation 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first [former] heaven and the first [former] earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

**2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be their God.* **4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

**Ephesians 2:7** That in the ages to come he might shew [*exhibit*] the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

During the future ages to come, which is part of our future glory, God will exhibit (show off) the work that He has performed in us through the completed work of Christ. God is proud of what He has done for us as His children, and He is going to show us, and everyone else who has been resurrected at that time, just what His finished product is all about! Oh Glory! What a day that will be! Let us close in the epistle to I John.

**I John 3:2** (WT) Beloved, we are children of God now, and (*although* it has not yet been revealed what we shall be) we know that when he [*Jesus Christ*] is revealed, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

God has called us to be His children right now! Not sometime in the future, but right now! Furthermore, it presently does not appear what we shall be, but we know that we will be like Jesus Christ in his new body, as he appears to be after his resurrection. This is our future glory to come! It is Christ in you, the hope of glory!