

1 Corinthians 2:7 (ESV) ⁷*But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.*

I. For our glory

A. The search for personal glory

1. Definition
 - a. Glory: that condition, characteristic, possession, or position that makes us feel personally valuable or valid compared to everyone else; that thing that sets us apart as praiseworthy.
 - b. When we seek personal glory we are seeking three things: Superiority, Satisfaction, Security
2. Examples
 - a. Biblical
 - (1) Cain sought it in personal skills
 - (2) Solomon sought it in shows of strength (horses and women)
 - (3) Even Jesus was tempted to seek his own glory (all the nations of the world)
 - (4) The Corinthians sought personal glory through alliances and leaders
 - b. Modern
 - (1) The white supremacists rally in Charlottesville was a grasp at glory
 - (2) The car attack in Barcelona, the attacks against police officers in Florida and Pennsylvania are all attempts to gain personal glory, some personal standing or stature in the community these people believe is missing from their lives.
 - (3) They are all looking for Superiority, Satisfaction, Security

B. The Promise of Personal Glory

1. The Bible on personal glory
 - a. **John 17:22 (ESV)** ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,
 - b. **Romans 2:7 (ESV)** ⁷ to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;
 - c. **Romans 2:10 (ESV)** ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.
 - d. **Romans 9:23 (ESV)** ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—
 - e. **2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)** ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- f. **2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)** ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
 - g. **2 Thessalonians 2:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - h. **1 Peter 5:4 (ESV)** ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
2. Proposition
- a. God's appointed glory relieves each of us of any need to join the search for personal glory in this world.
 - b. **Christian, God's love for you, His election of you to saving faith in Jesus Christ, and your inheritance in heaven, Jesus Himself, is your glory and a better glory than anything this world has to offer.**
 - c. God has something in store for you that will establish you in superiority over sin, satisfy your deepest need, and leave you eternally secure in love. This is your future glory.

II. Paul on Future Glory

A. Nature of Future Glory (Incredible truths)

- 1. v. 7 decreed by God from before the world was created
 - a. This is no last minute course correction to account for sin
 - b. This is no last minute concession to accommodate pride
 - c. This is God's eternal plan to share the majesty of His glory with those He created to bear His image in the world
- 2. v. 9 this glory is beyond your imagination
- 3. v. 12 this glory is revealed to believers through the indwelling Holy Spirit
 - a. Justification, Regeneration, Sanctification
 - b. God Himself powerfully present in the life of every true believer
 - c. God works in us through the Holy Spirit within us so that we will understand and implement what God has freely given us
 - (1) New and Eternal life
 - (2) **Gal 5:22 love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**
- 4. v. 16 this glory, this value and validation is yours on account of Jesus Christ
 - a. To have the mind of Christ is not the same as having your own personal library card so you have a source of wisdom and knowledge when you need it.
 - b. To have the mind of Christ is to have Christ and all His knowledge and devotion to the Father's plans and purposes as well as His commitment to live in faith in the glory and goodness of the Father alive and living in you.
 - (1) **Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)** ² *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

- (2) That same attitude, that same determination, that same utter reliance on future glory lives and functions in every true believer

B. Evidences a person is living for future glory

1. A person living for future glory doesn't just talk the talk, they walk the walk.
2. A person living for future glory seeks the Giver more than the Gift
3. A person living for future glory turns away from the world and takes up Christ
 - a. **1 John 2:15 (ESV)** ¹⁵ *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
4. A person living for future glory faces and overcomes difficulties living by faith
 - a. *In this world you will have trouble, fear not; I have overcome the world.*
5. A person living for future glory consistently strives for Christ-exalting life
6. A person living for future glory loves God's word and makes a habitual effort to live it
7. A person living for future glory habitually gives himself/herself to the graces Jesus lived
 - a. Mercy, compassion, service, love
 - b. Ryle - A man living for future glory "will try to do good in the world and to lessen the sorrow and increase the happiness of all around him."
8. A person living for future glory will practice personal holiness

III. Invitation

A. Our glory is Jesus Christ

1. Our glory is Christ Himself
2. Come to Him in faith and trust him

B. Learn His word

1. Understand
2. Apply

C. Live by faith in Christ for future glory