

The Incomparable Worth of Future Glory  
Romans 8:18-30 (19-22)

**I. The Incomparable Worth of Future Glory**

**A. Glory Lost**

1. Created in the image of God
  - a. Moral character
  - b. Personal glory
2. Glory lost
  - a. Sin in the garden
  - b. Romans
    - (1) Exchanged the glory of the Creator for creatures
    - (2) All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
  - c. **Question: If we were made for glory and lost that glory what hope is there of that glory every being restored?**

**B. Glory Regained**

1. Christ
  - a. **John 3:16 (ESV) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**
  - b. **Hebrews 1:3 (ESV) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.**
  - c. **Jesus is the glory of God manifest in humanity whom God sent to make possible the restoration of the glory in the rest of us who put our faith in Him.**
2. By faith, through the Spirit, we are united with Christ in His death
  - a. Sins are forgiven
  - b. New life is given
3. Paul - **Philippians 3:10 (ESV) that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.**
  - a. Sharing in his sufferings here means being fully identified with him in faith and faithfulness
    - (1) The world hated Him because of His faithfulness to God
    - (2) The world will hate those whose are faithful to Him
  - b. Expectation that having shared in His suffering and death we will also share with Him in His resurrection
    - (1) What does Jesus gain in the resurrection?
      - (a) A new life
      - (b) A new body
      - (c) A new glory!
    - (2) What does Paul hope to gain by faithfulness to Christ?
      - (a) A new life

- (b) A new body
- (c) A new glory!

**C. The worth of future glory (Four Proofs of the Worth of Future Glory)**

1. Proof #1 - Creation waits for future glory (vv. 19-22)
2. Proof #2 - Christians groan for future glory (vv. 23-25)
3. Proof #3 - Comforter intercedes for future glory (vv. 26-27)
4. Proof #4 - Creator works for future glory (vv. 28-30)

**II. Proof #1 of the Worth of Future Glory: Creation Waits for Our Glorification**

**A. Creation has been subjected to futility**

1. Ecclesiastes - “vanity”
2. The heavens declare the glory of God but not the way they could!
  - a. Intense clarity
  - b. Global understanding and appreciation
  - c. Permanent (unhindered) testimony
    - (1) Oh they tell me of day when no storm clouds rise
    - (2) Oh they tell me of an unclouded day!

**B. Creation subjected to futility with purpose**

1. In hope - absolutely certain expectation - of two developments
  - a. Liberated from bondage to decay
  - b. Obtain freedom for the glory of the children of God
    - (1) **Genesis 1:28 (ESV) *And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”***
    - (2) **Genesis 1:31 (ESV) *And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.***
2. The assignment of God’s glory through human dominion (stewardship) was very good
3. The restoration of very good is even better!

**III. So what? Taking the Proof to Heart**

**A. Creation waits for the final revelation of the children of God in restored glory.**

1. So what?
2. What difference does this proof make in our lives of faith today?

**B. Impacts**

1. Proof encourages confidence in the sovereign work of God
  - a. He has been working from the beginning for future glory
  - b. He is working now in you for future glory
2. Proof elevates our perspectives from our present suffering to our future glory
3. Proof enlarges our foundation for thanksgiving, contentment, and gratitude
4. Proof empowers a biblical appreciation of and responsibility for the physical world
  - a. Not ideologically “green” but realistically “godly”
  - b. You don’t have to go hug a tree for Jesus but you can pick up your own trash and recycle when you can as an act of gratitude

