

Why Discipleship? Galatians 4:19

Core Passages to Read: Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 8:1-30; 1 Corinthians 15:49-58; 2 Corinthians 3:18-5:10; Ephesians 4; Philippians 3:4-4:1; Colossians 1:5-2:7, 3:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-5:24; 1 Peter 1:3-16, 5:10-11; 1 John 3:1-3

Other Passages Cited: Genesis 1:26; 1 Corinthians 15:20; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Galatians 4:20, 5:17, 6:17; Ephesians 2:5, 8; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 John 1:8; Jude 24-25; Revelation 1:5

Summary:

We who are already saved in Christ are still struggling sinners who groan together with all of creation as we live in these perishing bodies. Therefore, we are waiting for final salvation¹ when Jesus comes again². He will be revealed³, we will see Him, and we will be fully changed into His image⁴. This will include resurrection⁵, redemption from slavery⁶ to physical corruption, transformation into conformity with His risen body, and eternal deliverance from sin's presence and power. This is our greatest hope⁷.

While we are already sons⁸ with Christ, our final salvation can be described as the completion of our adoption as the redeemed sons are fully conformed to the image of *the* Son, share His glory⁹, and enter into their full inheritance from the Father.

Though we have been conformed to the sinful image of the first Adam from the original creation¹⁰, we will be conformed to the second Adam as new creatures in a new creation⁵. Though we have been in conformity to that first "son," we will be conformed to the ultimate Son, restored into the created image of God⁴. Then the Son and the redeemed sons will be gloriously revealed³ so that all creation can worship and rejoice in this final salvation.

Understanding God's plan to completely conform us to the image of Christ *someday* should motivate¹¹ us to pursue growing conformity as disciples *today*⁴. Anticipating that we will be fully changed *then*, when we fully know Him, encourages us to pursue growing holiness, maturity, and transformation through growing knowledge¹² of Him *now*.

The suffering¹³ we encounter as we grow as disciples is incapable of stopping God's purpose because the Spirit¹⁴ (who is called the Spirit of the Son and Spirit

of Christ) is guaranteeing, empowering, and accomplishing this work of making us like the Son.

In dependence upon the Spirit, we also seek to be used as God's instruments to see Christ formed in others. This costly ministry of discipleship is motivated¹⁵ not by sight but by the fellowship with Christ, the joy of participation in God's purpose, and the faith-filled anticipation of the completion of that purpose. We will stand in the presence of the triune God for the presentation¹⁶ of the sons of God resulting in the preeminence¹⁷ of the Son as the "firstborn" among many brothers.

Therefore, we will eagerly pursue our own discipleship and the discipleship of others when we understand God's purpose to conform us into the image of Christ for our eternal blessing and His eternal glory.

Sample Passages by Theme:

¹**Final Salvation:** Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:8-9; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Peter 1:5, 9

²**Second Coming:** Matthew 28:20; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 3:13, 4:13-18, 5:23-24; Hebrews 9:28, 10:24-25; 1 Peter 1:7-8; 1 John 3:2-3

³**Revealed / Revelation:** Romans 8:18-19; Colossians 3:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:5, 7, 13

⁴**Image / Transformation:** Genesis 1:26; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:4, 10-12; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:13, 23-24; 5:1; Philippians 3:10, 21; Colossians 1:15, 28, 3:9-10; 1 Peter 1:14-15; 1 John 3:3

⁵**Resurrection:** Romans 8:11-13, 23; 1 Corinthians 15:49-58; 2 Corinthians 4:14, 16, 5:1-5; Philippians 3:10-14, 21; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3

⁶**Slavery / Redemption:** Romans 8:20-23; Ephesians 4:30; Galatians 5:1

⁷**Hope:** Romans 8:24-25; Colossians 1:5, 23, 27; 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 5:8-9; Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:3, 13; 1 John 3:2-3

⁸**Sonship / Adoption:** Matthew 3:17; Romans 8:14-23; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:11-14; Colossians 1:12-13; 1 Peter 1:14-15; 1 John 3:1-3

⁹**Glory / Glorification:** Romans 8:17-21, 30; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:4-6, 15; Galatians 1:5, 24; Philippians 3:21; Colossians 1:27-28; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 1 Peter 1:7-11, 5:10

¹⁰**Adam / Second Adam / Original Creation / New Creation:** Romans 5:14, Romans 8:19-22; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45, 49; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Colossians 1:23, 3:10

¹¹**Motivation for Personal Growth as a Disciple:** Matthew 28:20; Romans 8:12-13; Ephesians 4:23-24, 30; 5:1; Philippians 3:12-13, 4:1; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:1, 5:8-9; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 1:13-15; 1 John 3:3

¹²**Knowing:** 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:6; Philippians 3:8, 10; Ephesians 4:13; Colossians 1:27-28, 2:2-3, 3:10

¹³**Suffering:** Romans 8:17-18; 2 Corinthians 4:7-11, 16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:4; Galatians 4:19; Philippians 3:8, 10; Colossians 1:24, 29; 1 Thessalonians 3:3-5, 7; 1 Peter 1:6-7, 5:10

¹⁴**Spirit:** Matthew 28:19; Romans 8:9, 11-27; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 5:5; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Peter 1:11-12

¹⁵**Motivation for Discipling Others:** Matthew 28:20; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 4:1, 5-6, 10-18; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Philippians 3:20-4:1; Colossians 1:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20, 3:8-10

¹⁶**Presentation / Presence:** 2 Corinthians 4:13-15; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:27; Colossians 1:28; Jude 24-25

¹⁷**Pre-eminent / Firstborn:** Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 1:5