

## The Glorification of the Saints

### Introduction

- Definitive Sanctification (sanctification commenced)
- Progressive Sanctification (sanctification continued)
- Climatic Sanctification (sanctification completed): glorification

### I. Definition

“The completion of God’s redemptive activity in the perfect conformity of His people to the image of Jesus Christ and their final, physical resurrection from the dead on the last day.” (Rom. 8:29, 30)

### II. Change Involved

-Time of the Change: Not at the believer’s death (Ecc. 12:7; Luke 23:43; Phil. 1:23; Heb. 12:22, 23), but at the return of Christ on the last day (John 5:28, 29; 6:39, 40, 44, 45)

-Nature of the Change

- Either physical resurrection (1 Cor. 15:40-44, 51, 52) or direct alteration (1 Thess. 4:13-17)
- Discontinuity (Ex. 34:35 with 2 Cor. 3:7-18; Dan. 12:3; Matt. 13:43; 1 Cor. 15:42-44; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2)
- Continuity (Matt. 8:11; Luke 9:30, 33; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:37, 38, 42-44, 50, 51; Phil. 3:21)

-Necessity of the Change

- God purposes to redeem us as whole persons, body and soul (Rom. 8:11, 23, 24).
- We need to be fitted for life in the new heavens and the new earth (1 Cor. 15:50-53).

-Results of the Change: Rom. 8:17, 29; 1 Cor. 15:45-49; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2

John Murray (Collected Writings Vol. 2 p. 316): “*This is the highest end conceivable for created beings God Himself could not contemplate or determine a higher destiny for His creatures.*”

- No limbo, purgatory

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### III. OT Indications

- Job 19:25, 26; Heb. 11:10, 13-16, 19; Ps. 16:9-11; 49:15 Is. 26:19; Dan. 12:2; John 11:24; Acts 24:15

### IV. Attendant Circumstances

-The Renewal of the Universe (Rom. 8:19-23)

-The Revelation of the Father's Glory (Eph. 1:3-6, 11, 12, 14)

-The Publication of the Believer's Glorious Identity (Rom. 8:17, 19-23, 30; Col. 3:4; 1 John 3:1, 2)

-The Exhibition of Christ's Preeminence (Rom. 8:17, 29; Col. 1:18; 3:4; 2 Thess. 1:10)

### Practical Lessons

→The day of the believer's glorification will be a day of great victory (1 Cor. 15:26, 54-57).

→Glorification imparts great confidence to believers in the hour of their death.

→Glorification provides a powerful incentive for believers to pursue the holiness without which no one will see the Lord (Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:1-5; Heb. 12:14; 1 John 3:3).

→Glorification provides a powerful reason for believers to have hope and joy even in the midst of trial and suffering (Rom. 5:2; 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:13; 4:13; 2 Pet. 3:12, 13; Rev. 21:27).