

Message Three

Participating in God's Glory

Scripture Reading: Acts 7:2, 55; 2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 2:10; John 17:22; Rev. 21:11

- I. Because we have become God-men through regeneration, we have the right to participate in God's mind (1 John 2:27; Phil. 2:5; 1 Cor. 2:16), in God's being (2 Cor. 3:18), and in God's image (2 Cor. 3:18); eventually, we will be brought into God's glory to participate in His glory (Heb. 2:10).**
- II. God is a God of glory; glory is the expression of God, God expressed in splendor—Exo. 40:34; Acts 7:2, 55; 1 Cor. 2:7; 2 Cor. 3:18; 4:6; Rev. 21:11.**
- III. The glory of God is intrinsically related to the economy of God—Eph. 1:6, 10, 12, 14; 3:21; 5:27:**
 - A. God's eternal goal is to bring His many sons into glory—Heb. 2:10; 1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:5-6, 12, 14.
 - B. Man was created by God in His image in order that man may express Him in His glory—Gen. 1:26; Col. 1:15; 2 Cor. 4:4, 6.
 - C. God created us as vessels unto honor, prepared unto glory; we were predestinated to be His vessels to express what He is in glory—Rom. 9:21, 23.
 - D. To sin is to fall short of God's glory and thus to express sin and the sinful self and to love the glory of men more than the glory of God—3:23; John 5:44; 7:18a; 12:43.
 - E. Christ's redemption has fulfilled the requirements of God's glory—Rom. 3:24-25; Heb. 9:5; cf. Gen. 3:24,
 - F. Through the gospel of the glory of Christ, God has called us by and unto His eternal glory—2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Tim. 1:11; 1 Thes. 2:12; 1 Pet. 5:10; 2 Pet. 1:3.
 - G. The all-inclusive Christ dwells in us as the hope of glory—Col. 1:27; 3:4, 11; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
 - H. The goal of God's organic salvation and the last stage of this salvation is glory—our glorification—Heb. 2:10; Rom. 8:17, 21, 30.
 - I. When we are strengthened with power by the Father of glory through His Spirit into the inner man, when Christ makes His home in our hearts, and when we are filled unto the fullness of God, there is glory to God in the church—Eph. 3:14-21.
 - J. The Lord Jesus prayed that we would enter into the highest stage of oneness—the oneness in the divine glory for the corporate expression of the Triune God—John 17:22.
 - K. The building of God is the Triune God wrought into us so that we may become His glorious corporate expression—Eph. 1:21-22; 3:17a; 4:16; 5:27; cf. Exo. 40:34; 1 Kings 8:10-11; Ezek. 43:4; Hag. 2:7, 9.
 - L. Since the kingdom of God and the glory of God are inseparable, the glory of God will be manifested in the coming kingdom—Matt. 6:13; 16:27; 26:64; 1 Thes. 2:12; Rev. 5:13.
 - M. An outstanding feature of the New Jerusalem is that it has the glory of God, His expression; the entire city of New Jerusalem will bear the glory of God, which is God Himself shining out through the city—21:10-11.
 - N. The glory of God in the economy of God involves the high peak of the divine revelation—God becoming man so that man may become God in life, nature, and expression but not in the Godhead—John 1:14; Col. 3:4; Heb. 2:10; Rev. 21:10-11.

O. The goal of God's economy is that we all shine forth His glory—vv. 1, 23-24.

IV. As we behold and reflect the glory of the Lord, we are being transformed into the Lord's image from glory to glory—2 Cor. 3:18:

A. To behold the glory of the Lord is to see the Lord ourselves.

B. We are like mirrors beholding and reflecting the glory of the Lord—v. 18:

1. For this to be our experience, our face should be fully unveiled so that we may see and reflect properly.

2. Whenever we turn our heart to the Lord, the veil is taken away—v. 16.

C. When we with unveiled face are beholding and reflecting the glory of the Lord, He infuses us with the element of what He is and what He has done—v.18.

D. *Being transformed* indicates that we are in the process of transformation.

E. We are being “transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit”—v. 18.