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Raptured, Redeemed, Revealed - And a Restored Earth



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #190 ~

What a magnificent and glorious salvation we have been given! And God gets all the glory! As Christians, we have been saved from the penalty of sin, are now being saved from the power of sin, and will soon be saved from the presence of sin. The book of Romans, more than any other epistle, best describes our salvation. From justification to sanctification to glorification, it gives us the big picture, telling us how we were saved by Christ, are to grow by the Spirit, and will be glorified by God. As always, our focus in this blog post is the future, and it's Rom. 8:17-30 that tells us what God has in store for us, and what we should be eagerly waiting for.

From Romans 8:14-17 we learn we are children of God, that we are His spiritual sons and daughters, that we have been adopted into His

family. That we can have an intimate relationship with God, our heavenly Father, is a most wonderful blessing and experience. Now we are at the very beginning of this relationship, this eternal life, but it will continue on forever, and only get better and better and better.

Romans 8:23 says, *"having the first fruits of the Spirit… waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."* Eph. 1:14 tells us, *"you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession."* 2 Cor. 5:5 says something similar, that *"He who prepared us for this very purpose* (redemption) *is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge."* Your Christian life has just begun, and you are not yet fully saved, for what God planned for you back in eternity past has not yet been realized. But God gave you the Holy Spirit as a pledge, as a guarantee that your salvation will be completed. The apostle John says it this way, *"now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is."* 1 John 3:2

Did you get that? *"It has not appeared as yet what we shall be."* The world doesn't know who we are, and even we don't have a full grasp of who we are, and will be. As Christians, we are still encased in this sin-prone body. Rom. 7:14-15 tells us, *"I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin… I am not doing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate."* Rom. 8:23 says, *"Even we ourselves groan inwardly."* 2 Cor. 5:4 reminds us, *"For indeed, while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened…"* We still sin, cry, get sad, get tired, suffer, get sick, feel pain, and still grow old – that is, we are not yet acting like perfect children of God., like we were created and saved to be.

Yes, the Holy Spirit lives in us, and because of Him we give off some spiritual light. There's a little truth and holiness in us, and we do bear some fruit, like love, joy, peace, patience, etc. At the present time, we do have a little of God's glory in us, for *"we all, with unveiled face, beholding in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into*

the same image, from glory to glory” (2 Cor. 3:18). Be encouraged, for if you are a true Christian, you are indeed growing, and going *“from glory to glory.”*

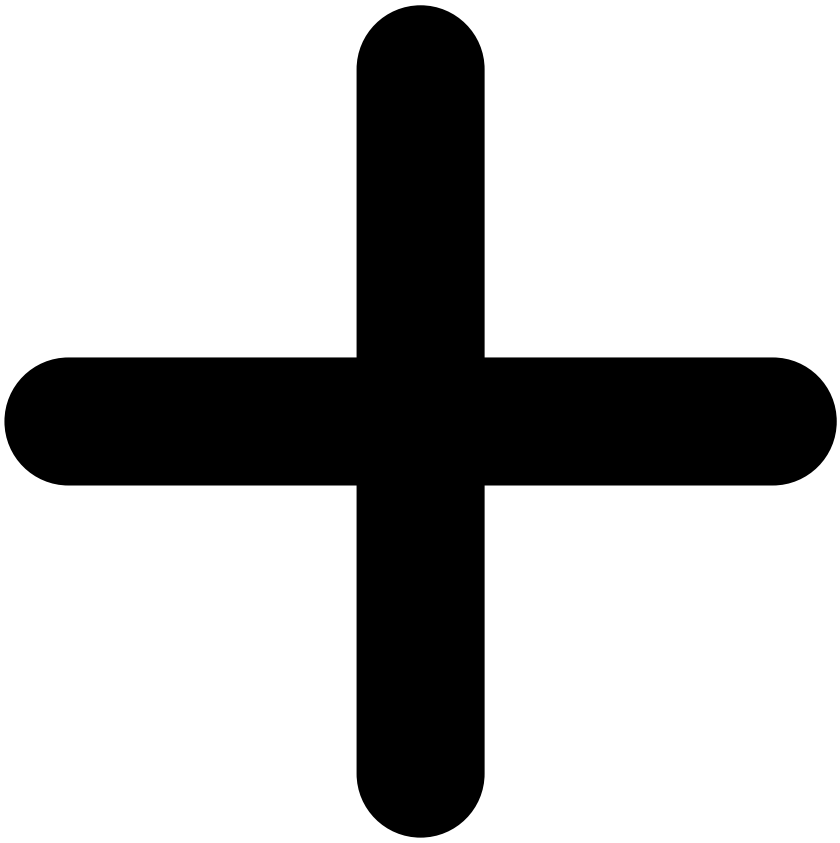
A Christian is now a little bit like Christ, but soon will be a lot like Christ, for “w*hen He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is”* (1 John 3:2). That *“we will be like Him”* when we see Him is truly miraculous and most encouraging. What this means is that when Christ comes back, all Christians still on earth *“will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory”* (Luke 21:27). Then we will be raptured and *“glorified with Him”* (Rom. 8:17), be bodily *“redeemed”* (Rom. 8:23), experience *“freedom”* from sin (Rom. 8:21), and then be revealed as *“sons of God”* (Rom. 8:19). (Vines Dict. correctly defines the redemption of our body as *“the deliverance of the believer from the presence and power of sin, and of his body from bondage to corruption, at the coming of the Lord Jesus.”*)

This is not just good news, this is great news, for when we see Jesus, our salvation will be complete, we will be perfect, and we will be with loved ones who *“have fallen asleep in Jesus”* (1 Thess. 4:13-14)! It’s not just the Christians on earth who will be glorified at Christ’s coming, but all believers who have already died and gone on to heaven. *“The Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord, and so we will always be with the Lord.”* 1 Thess. 4:16-17

This is our future, what will be taking place not long from now. God wants us to be *“waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body”* (Rom. 8:23). Every Christian should be looking forward to this, expecting this, hoping for this to happen. *“In hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”* Romans 8:24-25

But there's much more, *"for the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God,"* for then *"the creation itself will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God"* (Rom. 8:19, 21). It's not just man who has experienced huge consequences because of his sin, but an entire creation has been corrupted because of his sin (Gen. 3:17-19). Only when Christians are revealed as sons of God at the start of the next age will this creation be restored and then filled with the glory of the Lord (Col. 3:4). *"... that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of the restoration of all things"* (Acts 3:20-21). *"The whole earth is full of His glory."* Isaiah 6:3

P.S. God has given us so much wonderful detail about our future, for He wants us to have hope and to be encouraged by what He has planned out for us. This article will really help you understand more what God has in store for you – *"Being in Heaven With Jesus, and the Believers, and in a New Glorified Body."*



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