

Unstoppable Life

Unstoppable Glory

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

John 17:24

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Luke 21:25-28

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

Colossians 3:4

It is the unstoppable purpose of God, powered by His unstoppable grace, love and justice, to save us in His Son and share with us everlasting life "full of glory". This glory is the full expression and open revelation of:

1. God's personal reality

2. life's ultimate value

3. our true identity

The Bible consistently connects future glory to present faith, particularly to the way our faith in Christ enables us to:

1. endure suffering

2. embrace change

3. wait on the Lord



CONNECTION QUESTIONS

for personal study & individual reflection,
and small group discussion & comment

“Unstoppable Glory” - John 17:20-26; Luke 21:25-28; 24:25-26;
2 Corinthians 3:12-18, 4:6-18; Colossians 3:1-4; Romans 5:1-2;
Jude 24-25; 1 Peter 5:1; Hebrews 1:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 2:12

1. We are often confused about the idea of God’s “glory” because our frame of reference is a world where so much that shines like gold is just a cheap and fake imitation. The true nature of God’s glory is veiled or hidden in the midst of this broken and probationary life. But the real value, meaning and identity of what is truly and enduringly glorious can be known, experienced and trusted. Jesus promised that He would return with “great glory” at the consummation of the age (Lk 21:27). When you hear a phrase like that, “great glory”, what do you think that means? How will the glory of Christ’s return be in contrast to the great hiddenness and humility of His birth into our world?

2. In the middle of a dark night it is hard to imagine the brilliance of the coming dawn, and the intensity of the noon day sun. In a similar way we struggle in the shadows of this life to grasp the unstoppable and unveiled glory of God that will envelope all of creation at the end. We have an invitation and demonstration of this glory in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Paul says that the reconciling grace of God in Christ enables us to “rejoice in the hope of the glory of God” (Rom 5:2). Do you have joy and hope when you think about God’s glory being fully revealed? How can we grow in this hope?

3. Jesus told the disciples on the Emmaus road that His sufferings had to proceed His glory (Lk 24:25-26). Paul added that “our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us” (Rom 8:18). What is this link between suffering for the redemptive purpose of God in our world and the coming glory? Do you see paying a price for doing what is right and living what is real a necessary thing? How are you working that out in your day to day choices?

4. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says that as we personally encounter and respond to God’s truth we “reflect” His glory and are changed. The glory of who God is, what He has done, and what that means to us transforms us with “ever increasing glory”. There is an outside/inside tension about this change, but inwardly we are being renewed “day by day” (2 Cor 4:16). How are you embracing increasingly glorious change in your life? Where do you need to be renewed in what you think is glorious?

5. In following Christ by faith we are encouraged to fix the focus of our life’s attention and devotion not on “momentary troubles” but on the lasting, though presently unseen glory of what is to come (2 Cor 4:17-18). How hard is this to do? What helps you not be weighed down and crushed by your troubles and remember the glory “that far out weighs them all”?
