

## HOPE, PART 5: GLORY

...Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27, NIV)

**B**IBLICALLY SPEAKING, THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED “GLORY,” which is *doxa*, allows for the application of the word in the sense that something is brilliant and splendid. We can look at a snow-capped mountain, a rippling sea, even a delicate flower or a tender child, and call it “glorious.” In fact, if our mind takes us from this beautiful thing to the God who made it, speaking of his glory is perhaps the best thing we can do. But we do not need hope for these things. They show themselves to us with regularity. As far as glory goes, they are a hope fulfilled.

In Paul’s words to the Colossians, he must have been thinking of something else. He was, in the context, establishing that God had done something wholly unexpected in the thinking of the typical Jewish man or woman. He had now revealed himself to the Gentiles through his Son Jesus, and by his dwelling in the hearts of all who believed, regardless of their nationality, the hope of glory had been delivered to these many believers.

So what glory was he speaking of? Likely both of two forms of glory about which he wrote in several places: (1) the glorifying work that God does in us even as we walk this earth, and (2) the glorious age to come, when God’s eternal kingdom will be fixed in place for all time.

In the first case, Paul told the Romans: “And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified” (Romans 8:30). There is a stunning past tense in this wording. It is not that *someday* we will be made glorious; it is that God has done this work in us already. We are, when Christ lives in us, a current reflection of God’s glory. The very idea of that is glorious in itself!

In the second case, Paul wrote in the same passage of our future glory: “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” The groaning will end and all creation will be “liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God” (Romans 8:18-19).

Choose either. Choose both. In any case, you will find that placing your hope in the glory only Jesus provides will turn your affections to him in a newly excellent way.

**Opening questions** What things that you have seen would you include on your Top 10 List of Glory? What other things are great but not quite glorious? How do you separate the two categories?

**READING** Psalm 8:1-9; Romans 8:18-39

### The psalmist’s awe

In Psalm 8, where did David see the glory of God? What amazement did this ignite in him (verses 3-5)?

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### Christ’s glorious work

From Romans 8, list some of the glorious things that Christ does in and for those in whom he dwells. Which of these provoke praise in you today?

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### Stirred by God’s glory

If you were to write your own “Ode to God and His Glory,” what are some expressions you would use? What are things you consider “too glorious to even attempt to describe?”

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Written by Jeff Hopper ©2014 Links Players International. The devotional you are reading here is abbreviated from its original form, which you may read in full at [www.linksplayers.com/2014/02/07/hope-part-5-glory](http://www.linksplayers.com/2014/02/07/hope-part-5-glory).