**GLORY FOR ME**

Meditate. Ponder. Muse. Reflect. Contemplate. Consider. Ruminate. Deliberate.

These are all synonyms that have the general meaning of giving deep and careful thought to a subject. When a cow in the pasture “ruminates” she is going over and over and over again the grass she is eating. While that seems disgusting to me when it comes to eating grass, it becomes exciting to me when it comes to thinking about where I will spend eternity. If you’re a disciple of Jesus, not a bovine out on the back-40, ruminate with me for a moment about what will be our eternal future (perhaps beginning today – “*if the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that*” – Jam. 4:15).

What got me meditating on this was my reading of Romans 2. Paul talked about “*the revelation of the righteous judgment of God*” who will give “*eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for* ***glory****, honor and immortality*.” He then repeated that by saying, “*but* ***glory****, honor and peace to everyone who works what is good*” (Rom. 2:7-10).

Did you see the word “***glory***” twice? He combined it with *honor* (twice), *immortality* and *peace*. Right now, with all that’s going on around us, that sounds pretty glorious to me! The word “*glory*” is from the word DOXA from which we get our word doxology. So often in Paul’s epistles he seamlessly moves from theology to doxology. That means he transitions from doctrine to praise. God’s doctrines drive us to our knees in worship. When God tells me He loved me and saved me (doctrine) it makes me want to break out, like John, to shout from the rooftops: “*You are worthy to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and* ***glory*** *and blessing*!” (Rev. 4:11; 5:11) It’s like he didn’t know how to stop coming up with adjectives to adequately describe his feelings for God. #MeToo.

But then I think about this – God is going to honor me! I am going to be glorified! God Himself is going to signal little old me to step into His divine presence to drape the Medal of Honor around my neck and appoint me to enter the Hall of Faith! I am going to stand in that Ring of Honor alongside Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Job, Joseph, Joshua, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Daniel, Peter, John, Paul and thousands of others, both known and unknown. I’m going to also stand beside Noah’s wife, Sarah, Rachel, Miriam, Deborah, Ruth, Hannah, Abigail, Esther, Elizabeth, Mary, Priscilla, Rufus’ mom and so many other women who lived for God, both known and unknown. As the hymn says, won’t it be wonderful there?

But let’s get back to pondering that word GLORY. It fascinates me. Space limits me quoting all of Romans 8:12-30, but if you will take a moment to read, then muse, on that text, you will get goosebumps (I promise!). In it Paul says we are “*heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ…that we may also be* ***glorified*** *together*” (v.17). He then says, “*the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the* ***glory*** *which shall be revealed in us*” (v.18). Because of that we “*eagerly wait for the revealing of the sons of God”* (v.19). Why? Because we “*will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the* ***glorious*** *liberty of the children of God*!” (v.21). We are “*eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body*” (v.23). What will that look like? God has predestined us “*to be conformed to the image of His Son*” (v.29). He “*predestined… called… justified…* ***glorified***” us as His firstborn children (v.30). Brethren, I can’t wait! Maranatha! Come, Lord! (I Cor. 16:22).

While in this life I have shamefully sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23), that won’t be true in the life to come. There, in heaven, I will share in the glory of God! Just ruminate on that for a spell and you will fall on your knees in praise. Here is what I mean:

We all now “*rejoice in the hope of the* ***glory*** *of God*” (Rom. 5:2).

God has now “*made known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy* *which He prepared beforehand for* ***glory****, even us whom He called*” (Rom. 9:23).

Paul said, *“So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in* ***glory****”* (I Cor. 15:42-43).

Add to that this glorious thought (which I don’t even know what it means, do you?): *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the* ***glory*** *of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from* ***glory to glory****”* (2 Cor. 3:18).

Then there’s this: “*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of* ***glory****”* (2 Cor. 4:17).

And this: *“that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the* ***glory*** *of His inheritance in the saints”* (Eph. 1:18).

And especially this: “*When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in* ***glory****”* (Col. 3:4).

And Paul charged us: *“that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and* ***glory****”* (I Thess. 2:12).

And can you believe this? *God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the* ***glory*** *of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (2 Thess. 2:13-14).

Jesus is even now “*bringing many sons to* ***glory***” (Heb. 2:10).

And in closing I say to my fellow elders here at Northwest*: “The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder … and also a partaker of the* ***glory*** *that will be revealed: … when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of* ***glory*** *that does not fade away”* (I Pet. 5:1-4).

Until next time… read the words of Charles Gabriel’s famous hymn “*Glory For Me*”:

“When all my labors and trials are o’er, and I am safe on that beautiful shore,
 Just to be near the dear Lord I adore, will through the ages be glory for me.

“When by the gift of His infinite grace, I am accorded in heaven a place,
 Just to be there and to look on His face, Will through the ages be glory for me.

“Friends will be there I have loved long ago, Joy like a river around me will flow,
 Yet just a smile from my Savior I know, Will through the ages be glory for me.

“O that will be, glory for me, glory for me, glory for me.
 When by His grace I shall look on His face, that will be glory, be glory for me.”

I love you,

Rick