

The Benefits of Salvation Series

Glorification a Divine Act Part One

July 17, 2022

Dr. Mary Craig

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Craighouse Christian Fellowship



[Click/tap to hear the live recording](#)

We come at last to the fifth column of the outline for the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation. Many if not most people today believe there are many ways back to God and that when they die they, of course, will be in heaven and have eternal life. This is based on their works, which in their judgment make them fit for glory. They believe God will overlook their sins, which were after all, just mistakes, and that the good things they have done will far outpace their mistakes. It's a "balance scale" approach based on their own estimation or opinion or conclusions as to who God is, who they are, and why God should let them into His heaven.

Does the god of one's own making align with the Living God as revealed in the Word of God? So our fifth column is "Glorification: A Divine Act."

That means that the true and Living God does it, and to me, the most important thing in life is "to get from here...to there." By the final moment, at our weakest and most vulnerable stage of life, at the moment of surprise, and when the appointed time for our death comes, we must know what happens to us. Everyone is resurrected. Everyone will stand before the Living God, their Creator. **Everyone will be judged, for it is appointed unto men once to die and after that, the judgment.**

And as it is appointed unto men to die once, but after this the judgment: so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. Hebrews 9:27, 28 NKJV

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is good news. It proclaims who God is, who we are before Him, who is Jesus Christ and why He was sent by the Father, God in flesh appearing. It proclaims His life, His death, His burial, His resurrection out from among the dead, His redeeming acts, His ascension into glory, His coming again in great glory and power, and what it means for those who are "born-out-of-God ones," born anew, and true believers in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation. That salvation is a saving from sin, self, Satan, and the world system. It is a saving to eternal life by the work of the Holy Spirit who applies what Jesus Christ has accomplished to all those the Father has given to Jesus Christ. So let's get a glimpse into the glory that awaits every true believer and may the Holy Spirit place truth in the inward parts, deep down where we live, where faith and the repentance unto life has been granted.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Surpassing glory awaits every true believer who has been effectually called, justified, sanctified, and glorified in Christ.

According to the Westminster Confession of Faith, “The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption: but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them: the souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God, in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies...

“At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed: and all the dead shall be raised up, with the self-same bodies, and none other (although with different qualities), which shall be united again to their souls forever.

“...the bodies of the just, by His Spirit, [shall be raised] unto honor; and be made conformable to His own glorious body.” (*Westminster Confession of Faith, XXXII/i-iii*)

“God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father...

“The end of God’s appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of His justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fullness of joy and refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord; but the wicked who know not God, and obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.

“As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin; and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity: so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen.” (*Westminster Confession of Faith, XXXIII/i-iii*)

Let’s consider what Dr. Robert L. Reymond says about it in his Systematic Theology.

We have salvation in three tenses:

Past tense – the believer has been saved from the guilt and condemnation of sin, from the **penalty** of sin (Luke 19:9; Ephesians 2:8; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3.5):

⁹He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works, but by His own purpose and by the grace He granted us in Christ Jesus before time began.

¹⁰And now He has revealed this grace through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the gospel,...2:Timothy 1:9, 10 Berean

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7 ESV

Present tense – the believer is being saved from the **power** of sin (1 Cor. 1:18; 1 Cor. 15: 2; 2 Cor. 2:15)

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18, Berean

¹⁵For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 2 Corinthians 2:15 NKJV

Future tense – the believer will be completely saved some day from the very **presence** of sin (Romans 5:9, 10; 1 Cor. 3:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; 1 Peter 1:5)

⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Romans 5:9, 10 NKJV

Individual salvation encompasses not only past, present, and future but also the whole person—body, soul, and spirit. Believers will stand before God as saved persons in Christ, redeemed in spirit, soul, and in body. Our ‘so great salvation’ will not be consummated until He has brought our full and final glorification to reality. Consequently, while there is a sense in which death itself now serves the Christian (1 Cor. 3:22) in that “the souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory” (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21-23; Hebrews 12:23; Rev. 14:13), it is still true that “their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.” (Shorter Cat. Question 37).

So the intermediate state of believers in heaven, brought to pass in His will when God calls His children to Himself through death, is a more blessed state than the present one; yet it is not the most glorious state. Death is not the experience to which believers should longingly look for. Rather, their blessed hope is the glorious appearing (or the appearing of the glory) of their great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13), at whose coming those who have died in the faith and those who are alive at the time of His coming will all be changed....(1 Corinthians 15:51-57).

At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the Day of Judgment and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity. This state of blessedness will stand in sharp contrast to the state of those “vessels of wrath fitted for destruction, even in order that [God] might make known the riches of His glory upon the vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand unto glory.” (Romans 9:22, 23) The redeemed will enter into everlasting life and receive that fullness of joy and refreshing which shall come from the presence of the Lord while in contrast, the wicked who know not God and who obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus will pay the penalty of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

At this point true believers will enter upon their glorified state, the goal toward which the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in all of their salvation exercises, have been relentlessly driving from the moment of creation. This glorified state is that ultimate end and purpose which was the first of the decrees in the eternal plan of salvation.

Bibliography.

Reymond, Robert L. *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*.
Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998.
Westminster Confession of Faith, XXXII/i-iii
Shorter Cat. Question 37 WCF
www.biblehub.com

Mary Craig, D. Min.

© 2022 Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. www.marycraig.org www.mcmtffr.org



Thank you for giving to MCM! Donate: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 4610, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338-4610 or through PayPal® online at www.marycraig.org. Go to marycraig.org for the latest articles and words received. Take a look and see all that God is doing through this ministry, in world missions, in evangelism, the Barnabas Project, Craighthouse® Christian Fellowship, home visitation, Kinetic Koinonia, media, and more. Worship with us 4:30 p.m. Sundays via teleconference. Reach MCM at 954-491-7270. Send in your prayer requests. Follow MCM Bible teachings and Rev. Jim Craig's sermons; go to www.marycraig.org and click on "Audio Bible Studies" or "Divine Appointment" radio ministry; or go to www.mcmtffr.org for audio sermons, teachings, and handout sheets. Free. Go to www.marycraigverses.org for "Enjoying God for Life," daily encouragement and growing in your faith. Go to www.marycraig.smugmug.com for some pictures of MCM world missions.

See our new Mary Craig Ministries YouTube Channel here:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCs4c-InXmh2HKF36huJQTOA or www.mcmvideochannel.com. Subscribe for free.

Free books by Dr. Craig to download, print, or just open and use, here: www.marycraig.org/Catalog.htm.

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. is a USA 501 (C) (3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1993. Federal ID 65-0429517.