

# Glimpses of Glory

## Class #5

*Of this we may be certain: Hell will have no power over Heaven; none of Hell's misery will ever veto any of Heaven's joy.*  
Randy Alcorn, Heaven

### I. A Question to Answer

***“Will we experience sadness & tears in heaven over loved ones who are in Hell?”***

#### **A. Our Perspective on God's Glory & Justice Will Shift**

*For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.  
But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.*

**Psalm 73. 27-28**

*When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”*

**Revelation 6. 9-10**

*What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?*

**Romans 9. 22-24**

*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

**2 Peter 3.9**

*God the Father (who now pleads with mankind to accept the reconciliation that Christ's death secured) and God the Son (our appointed Judge, who wept over Jerusalem) will in a final judgment express wrath & administer justice against rebellious humans. God's holy righteousness will hereby be revealed; God will be doing the right thing, vindicating himself at last against all who have defied him ... God will judge justly, and all angels, saints, and martyrs will praise him for it. So it seems inescapable that we shall, with them, approve the judgment of persons—rebels—whom we have known & loved.*

*In Heaven, we will see with a new and far better perspective. We'll fully concur with God's judgment on the wicked. The martyrs in Heaven call on God to judge evil people on Earth (Revelation 6:9-11). When God brings judgment on the wicked city of Babylon, the people in Heaven are told, “Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you” (Revelation 18:20).*

*Hell itself may provide a dark backdrop to God's shining glory and unfathomable grace. Jonathan Edwards made this case, saying, “When the saints in glory, therefore, shall see the doleful state of the damned, how will this heighten their sense of the blessedness of their own state, so exceedingly different from it.” He added, “They shall see the dreadful miseries of the damned, and consider that they deserved the same misery, and that it was sovereign grace, and nothing else, which made them so much to differ from the damned.”*

**J.I. Packer, “Hell's Final Enigma”**

## B. Our Perception of our “Loved Ones” Will Change

- None of our loved ones will be in hell; only some we *once* loved.

## C. Our Resting on God’s Promises Will Be Complete

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,  
who comforts us in all our affliction ...*

**2 Corinthians 1.3-4**

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*

**Revelation 21.4**

## II. A Passage to Consider

*Recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. <sup>37</sup> For,*

*“Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”*

*But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.*

<sup>13</sup> *These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.*

<sup>32</sup> *And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life.*

<sup>36</sup> *Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated — <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy ...*

**Hebrews 10. 32-39; 11. 13-16, 32-38**