

#2 He who is wise, wins souls: conclusion

Tom Tillman

Last time, we left off with the line of the song which says, the pleasures of this World ***melt to nothing, like mist in the morning, weak, ugly and old.*** After the thousand year, millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, everything of this World, as well as the Heavens, all of it will be destroyed by fire.

Remember, after God destroyed the World in a flood of water, saving only eight people, Noah, his three sons and their wives, He set the rainbow as an eternal reminder of His promise to never again destroy the World with water but that promise never included the destruction of His Creation by fire.

Then, the song repeats the chorus:

He who is Wise Wins Souls

He'll Shine like the Brightness in the Heavens

Those who Turn Many to Righteousness

Like the Stars, Forever and Ever

Some Christians have a real difficulty in believing that God has promised to glorify us, His children, and that the glory He intends is like His own, a glory that is manifested in a bright and shining glory of light.

Jesus said, 'How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?' John 5:44

God plans to fully glorify His children. But these Pharisees were seeking, rather, the praise and glory from men. When that is the case, Jesus seems to say that it is impossible for that person to come to believing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a form of glory that comes from man which consists of praise and honor but it's a false glory, an imitation of the real thing. Real glory is of, and only from, God.

When we, His children, glorify God, we are naming, describing and showing forth Who and What God really is. When we reflect His attributes of love, patience, mercy and grace, etc., we are glorifying God, we are giving glory to Him and His Name; we are reflecting the Character of God.

When we are receiving a 'down payment' of our future glory, from God, it consists of His work of sanctification in our lives: His forming us day by day, more and more into the image and likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ. But His work of our sanctification is only the beginning of His promise to glorify His Son's Bride.

Paul wrote: 'And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.' Rom 8:28

All of His works: His foreknowledge of us, His choosing and having predestined us to reflect Jesus Christ, His call to us, our justification and our glory: all of these are, in God's plan, finished works; they were finished on the Cross when Jesus said, 'It is finished!' Then, He sat down at the right hand of the Father to wait until He comes for us in the Rapture and then, later, when we will accompany Him back at Armageddon.

His work of sanctification now and our full glorification, at the Rapture, when we will receive glorified eternal bodies like that of Jesus Christ, Himself, is God's eternal plan of creating a perfect, holy, righteous and fully glorified Bride for His Son, a Bride who is worthy of His Son. That is God's eternal plan: that He be glorified in the glorious Bride He planned for His Son. Use your imagination: imagine the bride God the Father has planned to be wed to His Son. Do you think that God has planned for His Son some downtrodden, haggard and defeated 'has-been'? His plan is that she shine forth with the same glory as that of His Son. It will be the magnificent, glorious, spectacular, one and only, wedding of the ages which all of the 'friends of the Groom,' the Old Testament Saints, and all of the elect angels have been anxiously awaiting.

The only reason we don't gloriously shine now is that our perfect and glorious spirits are still housed, and hidden, within sinful, mortal, corrupt bodies of Earthly flesh, made only to live on a corrupt Earth. When that body is remade into an eternal, glorified holy and righteous body, on that is made for Heaven, Earth and beyond, then we shall shine with the Glory of God. We will shine with the reflected Glory of God but we will

also shine eternally with the glory He has already placed within our holy and righteous spiritual bodies. Then, both our physical and our spiritual bodies will be one with our souls just like we are now one with the Holy Spirit. Remember, His Word says that our glorification is a finished work and our perfection is a finished work. The only thing remaining of imperfection, and corruption, is our current Earthly, physical bodies which hide God's glory within us. Now, the only way we can glorify God is in our thoughts, words and actions.

Of Jesus, it says, 'But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.¹⁴ For by one offering **He has perfected forever** those who are being sanctified (us).' Heb 10:12 We are perfect, in Christ, but still being sanctified.

God's entire plan; all of His creation has had one goal: to create His planned, perfect bride for His Son, that He and His Son would then be glorified forever in and through that perfect, beautiful and glorious holy Bride.

'Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,²⁷ that He (Jesus Christ) might present her (His Bride) to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.' Eph 5:27 That is God's work, not our own.

'Eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good **seek for glory**, honor, and immortality' Rom 2:5 We will be glorified together with Him. We are fellow heirs. We will share in His glory, not merely reflecting His glory. The angels reflect His glory; we will share in His glory.

If we disbelieve God's promise of our eternal glory, we are dishonoring Him and refusing to give Him His due glory. Some think our glory will only be the reflection of God's glory.

Paul wrote, 'Through Christ we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of the glory of God.' Rom 5:2 We don't hope that God will be glorified, that is an absolute foregone fact.

'So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a **partaker in the glory** that is to be revealed.' 1 Pet 5:21

Our glory will then be revealed; now, it is hidden behind sinful flesh.

Every time the New Testament speaks of our glory, our glorification, our glory to be revealed, it always uses the exact same Greek word that it uses for God's own glory: *doxa*

But how do we know that we will shine and be radiant in glory?

At the end of The Revelation, John describes New Jerusalem, our future home: 'The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for **the glory of God illuminated it**. The Lamb is its light. Rev 21:23

Here, we see, beyond any doubt, that when the Bible speaks of God's glory and the glory, of which, we are fellow heirs, it's always the same word, 'doxa,' the shining, bright, illuminating light of the glory of God which will completely light up the entire, unimaginably huge 1,400 miles X 1,400 miles X 1,400 miles City of New Jerusalem and doubtless, wherever we are, in New Jerusalem, we, too, will help to light it up. Remember, even now, as our glory is still hidden behind sinful flesh, God still says that we are the light of the World. We are what now holds back the darkness. When He removes us, at the Rapture, the darkness of this kingdom of darkness will be complete.

'doxa' do-xa-ology doxology... the closing song, giving glory to God: 'Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above, ye Heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The next verse in our song begins: '**Ev'ry choice, so important, selling our lives each day.**

When someone has a job, any job: plumber, electrician, nurse, etc., what they are doing is selling some of their lives in exchange for the agreed upon price: 'I agree to sell you 8 hours of my life for \$25 per hour.' The boss says, 'I will buy those 8 hours of your life, but I am only willing to pay \$23 per hour.' Then, 'How about we split the difference and call it \$24 per hour?' 'OK.Let's shake on it.' We all sell our lives in that, and other ways.

Lucifer and his demons will whisper, 'I will buy some of your life and in exchange, you can have the feeling that comes from drugs or alcohol or illicit sex, etc... it won't cost much... in fact, as soon as you're done, you can go right back to looking like a good Christian... no one will know... come on... everyone's doing it.' But God,

through His Holy Spirit, says, I will bid on that block of time, of your life, and I will deposit for you an unimaginably great and fabulous eternal reward in My Bank of Heaven. You can claim it at the Rapture.' All day long there is a bidding war going on for our time and our lives and we must choose, day by day and minute by minute, to whom we will sell the next block of time.

If we choose to sell out to the lowest bidder, to Satan, our final pay will always be death and destruction. If we choose to sell to the highest bidder, our bank account in Heaven will grow and grow with compound interest... but we must choose, over and over and over again... it never ends until Jesus comes for us. Some of us have suitcases full of God's IOU's, some of us have semi-trucks full of His IOU's while others of us may have only a few IOU's in one of our pockets.

That is what we can't see and so we lose sight of it. That is how, and even far greater, God intends to reward His children for their faithful service.

Every choice, so important... selling our lives each day.

Good or bad, our endorsement, we decide our pay.

Every time we make a choice of right or wrong, good or bad, profitable or destructive, the thing which we approve or disapprove, that which we endorse, that is the price for which we are willing to sell our lives, minute by minute until we stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and He gives us everything we have deposited into the Bank of Heaven. We are deciding our pay every day. Some people invest their lives while others squander it for worthless things. Some people are constantly making deposits into their account on which the Bank President, the Lord Jesus Christ, will compound their balance with astronomically high interest.

I would never have wasted so much of my life if I'd understood God's promises of eternal rewards and future glory from Him. But, in fact, that is exactly what God opened my eyes to when He called me out of that life. He opened my eyes; I understood: I was going to stand before Him one day soon and I was going to have to give an account of my life; suddenly I saw eternity and the value of His approval and of eternal rewards. I was set free to choose the better, the greater, the higher, the utmost: a close, personal fellowship with God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me; I was no longer willing to squander my life anymore. At 39, I decided that I was not too old to completely start over, even at the bottom.

Every choice, so important... selling our lives each day.

Good or bad, our endorsement, we decide our pay.

His Reward Lasts Forever... Glory Never Fades...

His rewards for His children are eternal... they will never fade and they will never end; eternity is a very long time, indeed!

Why do I stress, so often, the fact that we will actually shine forth as brilliant, shining beings, that we will reflect the glory of God but that we will also shine with the glory He has bestowed upon us, His children?

'Jesus answered and said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage."³⁵ But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage;³⁶ nor can they die anymore, for ***they are equal to the angels and are sons of God***, being sons of the resurrection. Luke 20:34

We will be, at very least, equal to God's elect angels. Here is one of those angels: 'Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.³ ***His countenance was like lightning***, and his clothing as white as snow.⁴ And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. Luke 28:1

We will be, at the least, ***equal to the angels and their countenance is like lightning***. Lightning is the most blindingly bright light that we ever see on Earth.

'... that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ' Phpp 2:15

We shine now but our shining cannot be seen, yet, in the physical realm. In the spiritual realm, we shine as lights in the darkness of the Kingdom of Darkness; it is our light that is holding back the darkness which will rush in like a flood, one minute after the Rapture.

'For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who **will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.' Phpp 3:20

He will transform, at the Rapture, our lowly physical bodies so that they will be just like His glorious body... just like Him.

'Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed (at the Rapture), we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.' 1 John 3:2 We will be just like Him. The glorious, eternal Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ will be transformed to **correspond to and be worthy of Him**, forever.

John tells us what Jesus Christ looks like: 'His countenance *was like the sun shining in its strength*.' Rev 116 That is speaking of His brilliant shining Glory.

Once again, think about it! Do you think that it's even in the realm of possibility that God, the Father, would ever allow that angels, who, by the way, we are told, are sent out to help us, to serve us: 'But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? 'Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?' Heb 1:13 We are seated at the right hand of the Son, in Heavenly places. We are told that we will judge angels: 'Do you not know that we shall judge angels?' 1Cor 6:13

How could it even be imagined that God would allow angels, servants, to possess more glory than the spotless, perfect, righteous and holy Bride that He selected and created as His most precious love gift to His Son? It is not even possible. We will share in everything the Son possesses and that is everything, including the Glory that comes from God.

Once we can begin to see ourselves as He sees us and once we can begin to see ourselves in the light of what He has planned for us... when we can begin to understand and believe that we will actually be brightly shining children of God... then we can begin to understand and believe even the unimaginable because if we can imagine it... the reality is far, far greater.

All day, every day, we make hundreds of choices each. Some, we think first, others we do not. But every choice will produce an eternal effect. Every choice will cause a response from people but especially from God.

The song goes on: ***Eternal, Precious Treasure... Grace, Love Displayed***

As we delight in Him and in the unimaginable rewards He will have given us, we will never stop praising and glorifying Him forever because of His love, His grace, His mercy because He loved us, He chose us and He saved us for Himself and then transformed us fully into the Image of His Son.

Shining forever like Stars in the Heavens, Glory that comes from God...

He who is Wise Wins Souls; He'll Shine like the Brightness in the Heavens; those who turn many to Righteousness, Like the Stars, Forever and Ever.'

'Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.' Rev. 22:12

He Who Is Wise Wins Souls

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He who is Wise Wins Souls

He'll Shine like the Brightness in the Heavens

Those who Turn Many to Righteousness

Like the Stars, Forever and Ever

Nothing of Earth can Hold my Attention

All of it Fades away

Knowing You, my Intention

Deeper every day

Pleasure, Power, Beauty Adorning

Fame, Riches Untold

Melt to nothing like mist in the morning

weak, ugly and old

He who is Wise Wins Souls

He'll Shine like the Brightness in the Heavens

Those who Turn many to Righteousness

Like the Stars, Forever and Ever

Every Choice, so Important

Selling our Lives each day

Good or Bad, our Endorsement

We Decide our Pay

His Reward Lasts Forever

Glory Never Fades

Eternal, Precious Treasure...

Grace, Love Displayed

Shining forever like Stars in the Heavens

Glory that comes from God

He who is Wise Wins Souls

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Those who Turn many to Righteousness... Like the Stars, Forever and Ever