

The Eternal Weight of Glory

- I. A definition of Glory: a state of absolute happiness, gratification and contentment.
- II. Weight is often used in a negative way, i.e., “it felt like a huge weight was taken from me”. Could there be a positive way to use weight?
- III. **1 Corinthians 2:9** says that we have never seen or heard or even imagined all the wonderful things that God has prepared for us.
- IV. **Romans 8:17 & 18** states that the sufferings we have to endure now are not worthy of being compared to the glory which shall be revealed in or to us.
- V. In **Luke 7:47** Jesus states that those who have not been forgiven very much will not love as much as those who have been forgiven a great deal. Could this be true about suffering and glory? Those who have suffered a great deal will have more glory, joy, and happiness? Those who have hardly ever suffered will not have the same rich experience in heaven?
- VI. **1 Peter 1:3-7** has some interesting things to say about the value of suffering.
 - A. In **verses 3 & 4** we are told of an incorruptible inheritance that is reserved in heaven for us. What does this inheritance look like? Or is it something that only can be experienced?
 - B. **Verse 5** contains a wonderful promise about being kept by the power of God.
 - C. **Verse 6** speaks of rejoicing for a while but “if need be” we next experience heaviness through manifold temptations.
 - D. **Verse 7** reassures us that this trial of our faith is more valuable than gold because at the coming of Jesus it will produce praise, honor, and glory.
- VII. **2 Corinthians 4:15-18** is the eternal weight of glory passage.
 - A. **Verse 15** reminds us that everything that is happening or ever has happened to us is for our benefit so that the abundant grace shown us might redound (cause to super abound, exceed or overflow) to the glory of God. We give expression to this life time of grace by singing The Song of Moses and the Lamb. **Revelation 15:3**
 - B. **Verse 16** tells us not to get discouraged about the deterioration of the outward body, but concentrate on the inner spiritual dimension since this will determine our capacity to enjoy heaven.
 - C. **Verse 17** points out that suffering will last only a moment but that it will work “for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”. This is the positive weight that will always be there satisfying our three basic needs.
 1. Experience *Intimacy* with Jesus, restored loved ones, angels, Bible heroes, ancestors and more.
 2. Experience *Adventure* as we travel to other galaxies, planets, and parts of our new earth. Have exotic pets to spend time with.
 3. Experience *Beauty* that is beyond our capacity to imagine.
- VIII. Sin destroys our capacity to *know* God, to *love* God, and to *enjoy* God. Suffering can be a blessing when it *shows* us a God who is love; that we have *learned* to love; to the extent that we now *enjoy* His presence. Our joy in heaven could somehow be proportionate to the suffering that we have endured on earth.