

A Glorious Anticipation

Philippians 3:7-11 (text—3:11)

Theme: Like Paul, Christians should be encouraged to know that regardless of what comes their way in life they will be raised from the dead.

3:9-11 is a glorious triplet:

a glorious standing – justification by
faith

a glorious process – progressive
sanctification

a glorious anticipation - future bodily
resurrection from the dead.

Certain or Uncertain? (3:11a)

Was the Apostle in doubt that he would attain to the resurrection of the dead? cf. 3:11a.

This is not what he is saying.

Reasons:

He would be contradicting 1:23
and 3:21.

He would be contradicting Romans
8:28-30.

Grammatically and syntactically it
is not what he is saying:

Paul does not express uncertainty over his future resurrection from the dead. He places uncertainty over what will lead up to it, as far as this life is concerned.

“so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!”

(Philippians 3:11a NLT)

*Christian, you can be sure that you will
experience resurrection from the dead
if you die before Jesus returns.*

Resurrection from the Dead (3:11b)

At death a Christian's soul enters the intermediate state.

The Christian's body goes into the ground like a seed,

cf. 1 Corinthians 15:37-38; 42-44.

When Christ returns this seed is gloriously raised, transformed and united with its soul.

Those alive at the second advent will
be transformed.

This transformation is called
glorification.

It describes the Christian's final state
when (s)he becomes a sinless creature
in a deathless body at the second
advent.

Our salvation is not complete until
this happens.

The primary New Testament passage
speaking about glorification is 1
Corinthians 15:12-58.

Characteristics of our Resurrection Bodies

The Christian's resurrected body
will be like Jesus' resurrection
body,

cf. Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2.

It will be:

- 1. Imperishable**, 1 Cor. 15:42b.
- 2. Raised in glory**, *cf.* 1 Cor. 15:43a. *Cf.* Dan. 12:3; Matt. 13:43, 17:2.
- 3. Raised in power**, *cf.* 1 Cor. 15:43b.
- 4. Spiritual**, *cf.* 1 Cor. 15:44. *Cf.* Rom. 7:14.

Other Scriptures teach that our resurrected body will be **recognisable**,
cf. Matthew 8:11; John 20:19-20; Luke
24:16, *cf.* 30-31.

Paul knows he will experience
resurrection from the dead.

Paul is encouraging the Philippians
that it is the same for them.

It is the same for us who are Christians today.

Whatever comes our way in life by the providence of God, empowered by the risen Christ we can run the race knowing certain glory awaits us: resurrection/transformation.

Conclusion

- A Glorious Anticipation

The Christian has a glorious anticipation.

It is impossible for our glorification not to happen, *cf.* Romans 8:30.

This should produce eager expectation and zealous desire to serve our Master all the days He gives us.