

## Three Steps to Eternal Glory

### Introduction

1. Peter noted that the call of God by Christ was to eternal glory (**1 Peter 5:10**).
  - a. That call was by the gospel to glory (**2 Thessalonians 2:14**).
  - b. Jesus prayed concerning all believers to witness His glory in eternity (**John 17:24**).
  - c. Our call was ultimately to be conformed to the image of the glorified Christ (**Romans 8:28-30; 1 John 3:2**).
  - d. He promised to prepare a place for His disciples to share in that glory (**John 14:2-3**).
2. This call to glory is universal, yet few answer (**Matthew 22:14**).
  - a. Such are not willing to do what is necessary to answer the call, and thus receive the glory promised.
3. The greatest goal anyone could ever have is to share in the glory promised by God in Christ.
4. What are we to do to find our way to eternal glory?
  - I. Step Out of Self
    - A. Acknowledge Your Purpose for Existing
      - a. Solomon sought purpose, and fulfillment – **Ecclesiastes 1:1-2; 12:8**
        - i. He found no fulfillment in all he gained under the sun.
        - ii. Vanity – emptiness. (Lacking substance)
      - b. So, Solomon concluded – **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** – this is the purpose of all men.
      - c. The life given to self is filled with disappointment and ends in disappointment.
      - d. Life does not consist in the abundance of things possessed – **Luke 12:15, 20-21**
        - i. Not just physical things.
        - ii. All that is in the world – **1 John 2:15-17** – it is all passing away.
          1. Lust of the flesh – gratifying fleshly appetite. (In possession)
          2. Lust of the eyes – pleasure in what is seen. Thoughts. (Not in possession.)
          3. Pride of life – feeding ego.
        - iii. Life consists in being **“rich toward God” (Luke 12:21)**.
    - B. Deny Yourself
      - a. Being rich toward God involves being involved fully with Him, not with self.
        - i. This spiritual wealth is determined by one’s relationship with God.
        - ii. It is found in harmony with His will (**cf. 2 Peter 1:2-4, 8** – it involves being given entirely to the direction of the knowledge of Christ.)

- b. **Matthew 16:24-27** – The path to eternal glory is through self-denial and cross bearing.
- c. Our cross is the burden of Christ – **Matthew 11:28-30** – the yoke of His will which frees from the burden of sin.
- d. We must be willing to not live for ourselves any longer, but for Christ – **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**
- e. Deny self:
  - i. Old ways – recreation, entertainment, relationships, etc.
  - ii. Time and resources – prioritizing the Lord’s service in all that you do.

## II. Step Into Christ

### A. The Importance of Stepping into Christ

- a. Our goal should be being **“rich toward God” (Luke 12:21)**.
- b. Those riches are only found in Christ:
  - i. **2 Corinthians 5:17** – being a new creature. (Old – **Ephesians 2:1**)
  - ii. **Romans 8:1** – no condemnation.
  - iii. **Ephesians 1:3** – every spiritual blessing is in Christ.
    - 1. Holiness, blamelessness, adoption as sons, redemption through blood, forgiveness of sins, knowledge of the mystery (gospel), the inheritance.
- c. Those who aren’t in Christ will not receive eternal glory – **“the God of all grace...called you to His eternal glory in Christ” (1 Peter 5:10; NASB)**.

### B. Entrance into Christ

- a. Baptized into Christ – **Galatians 3:26-29**
  - i. **(v. 26)** – sons of God through faith.
  - ii. **(v. 27)** – **“for”** – explanatory, i.e. the reason why of **verse 26** – baptized into Christ.
  - iii. **(v. 29)** – heirs of the inheritance.
- b. The benefits of His death are accessed when baptized into Him – **Romans 6:3-4**
- c. The body of Christ is His church – **Ephesians 1:22-23**
  - i. Entrance into His church (His body) is through baptism – **Acts 2:38, 40-41, 47**
  - ii. The saved comprise the church.

### C. What it Means to be in Christ (and Christ in you)

- a. Baptism into Christ is only the beginning. We must remain or abide in Him.
  - i. If salvation is IN Christ, then condemnation is OUTSIDE of Christ.
  - ii. To find oneself outside of Christ is to lose salvation.
- b. Abiding in Him – **1 John 2:3-6** – we know we are in Him by keeping His word and walking as He walked.
  - i. NOTE: written to those who were baptized into Him.
  - ii. Implication: if you stop keeping His commandments and following Him you stop abiding in Him.

- c. Walk in Him – **Colossians 2:6-7, 9-10** – in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily.
    - i. How? – **v. 7** – rooted, built up, established in THE FAITH – having been taught.
    - ii. Something we study and apply. Entrance into Christ is only the beginning. WE MUST GROW IN HIM THROUGH DILIGENCE. (cf. **2 Timothy 2:15** – rightly dividing word of truth)
- III. Step Through the Judgment
- A. The Universal Resurrection and Judgment
    - a. The reason we are to step out of ourselves and step into Christ is because our purpose is to fear God and keep His commandments – **Ecclesiastes 12:13**
      - i. However, another reason is because we will be judged in the end (**v. 14**).
      - ii. He will render to each according to deeds done in the flesh – **Romans 2:6-11**
        1. Those who seek glory will receive glory.
        2. But that eternal glory is only found OUTSIDE of self and INSIDE Christ.
        3. Judgment will be made on whether we are in Christ or not.
    - b. All will be judged – **Hebrews 9:27-28**
    - c. All will be raised to judgment – **John 5:28-30**
      - i. The day is not known – **Matthew 24:36**
      - ii. The day seals our fate (i.e. no more chances to be right) – **Matthew 25:11-13** (wise virgins prepared lamp w/ oil, unwise virgins did not and were not ready for the bridegroom’s coming – too late)
      - iii. The day commences certain judgment (i.e. nothing will be left unrevealed, and no mistakes in judgment will be made) – **Hebrews 4:12-13**
  - B. Attaining to the Resurrection of Life
    - a. ALL will step through the judgment – none will be exempt from this fateful day.
    - b. However, we step through the judgment to eternal glory, not merely by being a part of that day, but by attaining to the positive reward of that day.
    - c. **Philippians 3:7, 11** – counted loss for Christ to attain to the resurrection.
      - i. All will be raised, so what does Paul mean?
      - ii. Not all will be raised to life – **John 5:29** – such must be attained to.
        1. Eternal glory (life) is not reached through a loophole in God’s judgment.
        2. Eternal glory (life) is reached through standing in the judgment. (cf. **Psalm 1:5**)

- d. **Matthew 7:13-14** – taking the narrow way leading to life.
- e. **2 Corinthians 13:5** – examining self to see whether you're in the faith.
- f. **1 Peter 5:8-11** – be on watch, resist the devil, be steadfast in the faith, be perfected, established, strengthened, and settled by God in the gospel.  
(**cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:13** – word of God effectively works in us).
  - i. God is able – **Jude 24-25**
  - ii. But we must comply – **Jude 20-21**

### Conclusion

1. Our greatest desire should be to attain to the eternal glory God has called us to (**cf. 1 Peter 5:10**).
2. In order to do this we must step out of self, step into Christ, and step through the judgment as blameless.