

Guided Unto Glory #2

Ps. 73:24 – “Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.”

Last time we focused on the first half of the verse, imploring God to guide us with his counsel. This obviously is describing how we are to live in this current life by faith, endeavoring as much as possible to seek to know God, his will, his ways, and then to walk in the path he has laid out before us, lighted by the lamp of his Word (Ps. 119:105).

The stress last time was on the means by which God “guides us by his counsel”, and how we are to seek that guidance. We saw 73:24(a) largely as a desire and a prayer (“Help me to be guided by thy counsel”), to be aided by study and meditation on the Word, listening to godly counsel from pastors, teachers, and friends, and especially the Holy Spirit. All of this is true, and yet Ps. 73:24(a) itself is not stated as a desire, or a prayer. It is a statement of faith – “Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel”. We can be confident, that as the Father has chosen and called us, as he has made known to us the gospel of salvation, and drawn us to Christ, so he will continue through this life to guide and direct us according to his will. We certainly need to do the seeking and studying, but it is in faith that he really is guiding us, that we are not blindly going through life. He is preserving us, and teaching us. Believe that every experience of life, whether understood or not, is being used by a loving Father to direct us in his way. Believe that God really is guiding you with his counsel!

So when puzzling circumstances arise, and you cannot understand what is happening to you, or why, then confess Ps. 73:24(a) in faith – “God, I do not understand, but I believe that you are guiding me by thy counsel, and I submit my life to you to do with me as you will. Thy will be done, and I believe that in the end you will receive me into your glorious heavenly presence.” Don’t stop praying, or searching the Word for answers, but do it in an attitude of rest and confidence, without fear.

And to what end is his direction and counsel? The end goal of this life is that we should enter into the glory of his presence. This will only occur at our death, or the rapture, but that is his purpose (or we could say, one of his purposes). He is guiding us by his counsel to make us ready for eternal glory with him.

Ps. 73:24(b) - “... and afterward receive me to glory.”

Ps. 116:15 – “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”

Why would our death be precious? Because it marks an eye-opening transition from the darkened life we have known in this world to the inexpressible glory of living in his presence. None of us really know, or even can know the glories that await us, but we simply take it by faith according to what the Bible has revealed. Death is the doorway by which we enter into all that Christ has prepared for us, to be able to participate in his glory.

1 Cor. 2:9 – “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, not ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

Jn. 14:2-3 – “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, ye may be also.”

So while we currently “see through a glass darkly”, **what can we know about our eternal home with God in heaven, and the new Jerusalem? What has been revealed in the Word?**

1. The glory of the kingdom to come

Mt. 13:24-30 and 36-43 – (the parable of wheat and tares) “Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

This not only shows that we will be received into his heavenly kingdom, but that we will ourselves be glorious, with a glory that originates in Christ himself. We will be vessels of his glory. We might think of it as reflected glory, but I believe it is more than mere reflection - it is a glory that will permeate us and everything else in that kingdom. God’s glory will so fill everything that there will not even be need of sun or moon (Rev. 21:23). In fact, I do not think there can even be a shadow there, because the light of God’s presence will fill everything. Shadows here are caused by a single light source whose

light is blocked by an object, but God is not a single light source – He is omnipresent and so his presence will enlighten everything. Presently his glory is hidden because we live in a physical world, but in heaven there will be nothing to hinder the full manifestation of his glory.

2. That the glory and rewards above are eternal, and will never fade away

2 Cor. 4:17-18 – “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

1 P. 1:3-4 – “... according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”

Our place in heaven has been reserved for us. Jesus is preparing it for us (Jn. 14:2-3). He is waiting for us to join him, and ultimately will return to raise the dead, and to take up all saints who are still living.

3. The Bible speaks of our receiving crowns, and ruling with Christ

2 Tim. 4:8 – “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Jas. 1:12 – “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

1 P. 5:1, 4 – “The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: ... And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

4. There will be degrees of reward and glory (1 Cor. 3:11-15), depending on the way we live in this life.

a. Through suffering

Ac. 7:55-56 – “But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.”

Rom. 8:18 – “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

Rev. 2:10 – “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

b. By endurance

Jas. 1:2, cited above

2 Tim. 2:10 – “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

c. By faithfulness

1 P. 1:7 – “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”

In conclusion, let us see the verses following Ps. 73:24:

Ps. 73:25-26 – “Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.”

Sunday school teaching notes are available at: <https://howardslackteachings.com>