

Summary

Pastor explores the concept of glorification as both a process and consummation, using Paul's camping metaphor from 2 Corinthians 5. He explains that glorification isn't just about heaven, but involves our current transformation into Christ's image while living as temporary residents on earth. The sermon emphasizes three key points: this world is not our home (we're camping), we're called to make the world better while we're here (through cross-shaped authority and service), and heaven is our true home that we're designed for.

Paul uses the metaphor of living in tents versus permanent buildings to illustrate our temporary earthly existence versus our eternal heavenly dwelling. The pastor challenges believers to take responsibility for things within their control, practicing dominion through sacrificial service like Jesus. He emphasizes that suffering produces spiritual muscles and that the Holy Spirit serves as a deposit guaranteeing our future inheritance, encouraging both non-believers to surrender to Jesus and believers to anchor their hope in eternity rather than temporary earthly concerns.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together to study Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to set aside the distractions and concerns of this world and focus on Your eternal truths. Lord, we pray that Your Holy Spirit would speak to each person here in the way they need to hear from You. Give us ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts that are receptive to Your voice. We surrender this time to You and ask that You would use our discussion to draw us closer to Jesus and to one another. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's your best or worst camping experience? If you've never been camping, would you want to try it or do you prefer sleeping with walls like the pastor?

Key Verses

1. 2 Corinthians 5:1-5
2. 2 Corinthians 3:18
3. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
4. Genesis 1:28
5. Psalm 8:4-8
6. Philippians 2:6-11
7. John 14:1-6

Questions

1. How does understanding this world as temporary 'tent living' change your perspective on current struggles or challenges you're facing?
2. The pastor mentioned that suffering has made him more like Jesus. How have difficult experiences in your life contributed to your spiritual growth?
3. What does it mean to practice 'cross-shaped authority' in your daily relationships and responsibilities?
4. The sermon challenges us to say 'that's my responsibility' about things within our control. What specific areas in your life, family, or community is God calling you to take ownership of?
5. How can we balance being engaged in making the world better while maintaining an eternal perspective that this world is not our home?
6. What are some 'loud' things in your life (like the pastor mentioned bank accounts, job demands, etc.) that make it hard to focus on eternal things?
7. The Holy Spirit is described as a 'deposit guaranteeing what is to come.' How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's work in your life as evidence of your future inheritance?
8. If someone asked you to explain what glorification means using your own words or metaphor, how would you describe it?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific area within your control where you can practice 'cross-shaped authority' - serving others sacrificially rather than seeking to be served. It could be in your family, workplace, neighborhood, or community. Take concrete action to make that situation better, and when you do, remind yourself that this is part of your calling to reflect Christ's glory while you're 'camping' in this world.

Key Takeaways

1. Glorification is both a process of becoming holy now and a future consummation when we receive glorified bodies
2. This world is not our home - we should expect groaning and burdens as part of the temporary 'tent living' experience
3. We are called to practice dominion and authority through cross-shaped service, taking responsibility for things within our control
4. Suffering produces spiritual muscles and conforms us more to the image of Christ
5. The Holy Spirit in our lives serves as a deposit guaranteeing our future inheritance in heaven
6. We must constantly refocus our hope on eternal things rather than temporary earthly concerns

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the reminder that we are citizens of heaven living temporarily on earth. Help us to live with eternal perspective, seeing our current struggles as light and momentary compared to the eternal glory that awaits us. Give us courage to take responsibility for the things within our control and to serve others with the same sacrificial love You showed us. When the noise of this world gets loud, quiet our hearts and help us to anchor our hope in You alone. For those in our group who may be wrestling with surrendering their lives to You, we pray that Your Spirit would continue to draw them close. Thank You for preparing a place for us and for the promise that one day what is mortal will be swallowed up in life. Until that day, help us to reflect Your glory in all we do. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.