

Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See ¹

✦ Now the Silence... (vv.25-27)

✦ Then the Glory... (vv.28,29)

In the Name of Jesus our Lord of Glory, dear triumphant saints of God:

As the last century turned to this millennium, radio airwaves racked the mysterious, mind-warped antics of a talk show host named Tommy Mischke. One night Mischke did a bit about his clandestine trip across the river to watch a Vikings-Packers game in a bar with Packers fans. Fortunately, he didn't say he was a Vikings fan. Just wanted his team to win, but no such grace from the other side. The Packers fans wanted "to kill the Vikings." About halftime, Mischke quietly slipped back across the river. That's about as close as most can come to crossing over from death to life. Sports glory? Usually gone by morning.

Humans naturally seek glory for themselves, but God's Son came to give glory to God by seeking and saving the lost. Not erasing sports records, but totally destroying our guilt-record with God – all sins punished, all debts paid. Listen to Jesus in the verse before our text: ***"Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He is not going to come into judgment but has crossed over from death to life."*** (John 5:24 EHV²) Safe on the grace side of the river with Jesus, we have hope, confident of victory: **Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See. But Now...**

✦ Now the Silence... (vv.25-27)

It's heartbreaking that some feel God is so angry that they don't have a chance. Survivors of abuse maybe were told this by their abuser: "It is nearly impossible for me to believe that God loves me, even though I want him to. Most of the time I feel like he couldn't possibly have chosen me to be one of his children, and I won't be surprised if I die and find out my name isn't written in the Book of Life."³

But wait a minute. Knowing there is a ***"book of life"*** is an insight God gave you. Wanting God to love you? Evidence! Your name is ***"written in the book."*** Long before you felt anything the LORD promised through Daniel: ***"Those who have insight will shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who bring many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever."*** (12:3) It is possible for someone to believe in Jesus and yet not feel forgiven. It's like a treasure buried in the back yard, but you don't know it. Your lack of knowledge does not erase the hidden treasure. But God wants you to know the treasure of your faith. He wants your feelings to catch up with your faith. Sometimes a woman's tender heart, needs another woman to advocate for Jesus: ***"Amen, Amen, I tell you: A time is coming and is here now when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who listen will live."***

Could it be that easy, just *listen*? ***Listen*** to what Jesus says, ***"For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man."*** Jesus voluntarily came down to this sin-cursed earth to suffer abuse Himself. Before Jesus was even two years old, His family had to flee King Herod's massacre at Bethlehem! Knowing you and me better than we know ourselves, Jesus still came, His heart overflowing with kindness and tenderness for every broken heart. God's **Glory** is to love sinners. The Father ***"has given [Jesus] authority to execute judgment."*** His verdict? Forgiven! Not guilty! Righteous! Who will you believe? Satan's lies? No, believe Jesus who shed His own blood and lives again for you!

¹ Sermon theme and parts from Paul Gerhardt (CW 219), Jaroslav Vajda (CW 231, 218). *Christian Worship*, 1993, NPH.

² EHV ~ *Evangelical Heritage Version* (<http://wartburgproject.org>) © 2019. NPH: 800-662-6022, Amazon-Kindle, LOGOS.

³ "Why Advocates Matter," by Mary Lindloff. *The Work – Kingdom Workers Newsletter*, p.14. Fall, 2021.

Now the Silence – Our hands are empty of any good in us – we hold them up to God in grateful supplication for His peace. Kneeling now in prayer, there’s Jesus praying for us 24/7. *“In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we should pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”* (Romans 8:26 NIV84) Jesus shows that the Father’s arms are open in welcome even **Now**. Listening to God’s Word **Now** brings an overflowing flood of grace from your baptism which God says *“saves you.”* (1 Peter 3:21) Jesus’ body and blood celebrate God’s full and free forgiveness. Wedding songs await where hearts forgiven leap for joy. The dear Holy Spirit is still calling **Now** in **the silence** where faith listens while Jesus shows us God’s loving heart. We triumph in the Father’s blessing by grace through faith in Christ alone. **Now the silence...**

✦ **Then the Glory... (vv.28,29)**

Will you get to see God’s **Glory** among the SAINTS TRIUMPHANT? We’ve already heard how God’s glory is to love sinners? Are you a sinner? Then God loves you. Are you a saint? Not in the Roman sense of canonized miracle workers. But long before the Romanists, God called all believers “saints.” (Daniel 7, 8; Matthew 27:52; Acts 9; Romans 1,8,12,15,16) By grace through faith, dear saints of God!

Here’s Jesus’ kind of evidence: *“Whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink because he is my disciple—Amen I tell you—he will never lose his reward.”* (Matthew 10:42) Such tiny acts of kindness Jesus calls good works, not to save you, but to prove your faith. *“Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.”* (Ephesians 2:8–10)

Are you chosen by God? Listen – that’s how Paul proves you’re *“loved by God.”* As you keep listening to God’s Word, *“we know that God has chosen you.”* Your name is in the book of life, *“because our gospel did not come to you with mere words, but with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction....”* (1 Thessalonians 1:4f) You see, *“the Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God’s children.”* (Romans 8:16) When I feel most unworthy, I think of a struggling Vietnam veteran, a rough railroad engineer. John Lunn: “I don’t care about them there crowns – 10 crowns, 20 crowns, a hundred crowns. Just let me shovel up behind the last elephant!” Lord, just give me shovel.

But wait, listening to Jesus, we anticipate **Then the Glory**: *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out. Those who have done good will rise to live, but those who have practiced evil will rise to be condemned.”* We all sin, but then what? Repentance! Faith and hope in Jesus! All good in God’s eyes. Stop looking at yourself; trust in Jesus. Remember how “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth,” with hymnwriter Paul Gerhardt. Seeing the last verse of Gerhardt’s hymn was rarely sung, the editor of our *CW93* “Red Hymnal” wrote music for our last hymn today. Kurt Eggert was on his deathbed when the first copy was handed to him in 1993.

As through a frosted window, we can’t see the glory, the rest, the unbroken Sabbath peace that God has promised. Yet beyond these eyes stands God’s throne in glory, the crystal river of life flowing endlessly, the splendor of Christ making everything new. Singing with saints and angels and all creation too! **Then the feast of joy unending Then the knowing Then the light, Then the ultimate adventure Then the Spirit’s harvest gathered Then the Lamb in majesty Then the Father’s Amen Then Then Then.**

Especially when you don’t feel forgiven, God wants you to imagine **Then**. Trembling at those pearly gates, “Will they let me in?” Not Simon Peter, it’s Jesus Himself with loving eyes and a tender smile that warms the depths of your soul. Gates already stand wide open. Jesus is taking you by the hand, leading you inside. Saints and angels cheering! “But Jesus, I don’t deserve it!” “I know, but look! I’ve already clothed you in my righteousness.” His royal robe feels like joy itself. He gives you a crown of gold to match His own. **Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See.** No more questions for me! Amen.