

## ***4—Sin is Idolatry; Crafting a Holy Life With Worship***

**2 Cor. 3:18**

**1—You Were Created to Admire God.** “...we all with open face beholding the glory of the Lord.”

Context explanation of glory... The expression of the character of God.

John Piper said: “The glory of God is the infinite beauty and greatness of God’s manifold perfections. The infinite beauty—and I am focusing on the manifestation of his character and his worth and his attributes — all of his perfections and greatness are beautiful as they are seen, and there are many of them. That is why I use the word manifold.”

“The heavens are telling the glory of God (**Psalm 19:1**). What does that mean? It means he is shouting at us. He shouts with clouds. He shouts with blue expanse. He shouts with gold on the horizons. He shouts with galaxies and stars. He is shouting. I am glorious. Open your eyes. It is like this, only better if you know me.”

**“The glory of God is the infinite beauty and greatness of God’s manifold perfections.”**

“And, the Bible says, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” (**Isaiah 6:3**). If you had eyes to see in this room, you would see the glory of God everywhere. We need eyes. We need eyes more than we need anything. The God of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the knowledge of the glory of Christ in the gospel (**2 Corinthians 4:4–6**).”

*Right living begins with right thinking and right thinking begins with right thinking about God.* (Earl Radmacher) You and Your Thoughts

**[s] moon in the morning over Shear Lake—“...my faithful witness in the sky...”**

**2—When You Admire God it Will Transform You.** “...transformed into the same image...”

—the name for this kind of admiration is “worship”

—In the natural we tend to become like what we admire. This is true on a supernatural level for good and for evil. After a while we start to be formed into the image of our God or formed into the image of our idols.

**We become like what we worship and admire good and bad. Psalms 135:15-18** *ESV The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. [16] They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; [17] they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any*

*breath in their mouths. [18] Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them!*

**Romans 8:29** what is the essential good that comes from whatever happens to a believer? “...***We are conformed to the image (eikon) of his Son...***”

—Describe Religious Affections... (deeper than feelings... the values at the very core of who we are... what we really want... we do what we do because we want what we want)

**Tim Keller: *If you go through religious or moral behaviors without a ravaging sense of beauty, or joy, or delight, or satisfaction—it is not worship.*** (TK) When we assign ultimate value to God then we engage our entire being in worship. When we take an inventory of the excellencies of God and reflect on them then there is an overflow of worship. Life transformation comes from an inventory of the excellencies of God. (glory: display of the excellencies of God).

Why do some people faithfully attend church and go away unchanged? Because they were among the assembly but they did not worship. Worship changes us. Do you long to assemble. Do you long to experience the treasure of Christ.

**[s] “Take in the View (ill) Keith Drury—the length of the Blue Ridge Parkway on a scooter. (ill) Don’t hurry through the mountains of God...** tiring of the turns and climbs, blind to the beauty and grandeur. Leave in time to get to the mountains before dark—drive slow out of the mountains... savor their beauty and appreciate their charm.

(ill) Girl who asked, “How can I fuel a deeper passion for Christ?” JOHN PIPER “...there must be another path to know the real Jesus other than by rigorous, academic, historical research. There is another path. It starts with the conviction that divine truth can be self-authenticating. In fact, it would seem strange if God revealed himself in his Son Jesus Christ and inspired the record of that revelation in the Bible, but did not provide a way for ordinary people to know it. Stated most simply, the common path to sure knowledge of the real Jesus is this: Jesus, as he is revealed in the Bible, has a glory—an excellence, a spiritual beauty—that can be seen as self-evidently true. It is like seeing the sun and knowing that it is light and not dark, or like tasting honey and knowing that it is sweet...” “When we see Jesus for who he really is, we savor him. That is, we delight in him as true and beautiful and satisfying. Christ is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. And when we are satisfied in him, we are crucified to the world. In this way seeing a savoring Jesus will multiply the mirrors of his presence in the world. – John Piper, *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*

**Worship when you are tempted! Pray, Obey, Meditate and Worship!**  
When you are tempted to lust or worry or anger, in the moment of fear or worry or temptation to do something that is dishonorable... bring before your heart the face of Jesus... 3:18; 4:4, 6 glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ

**3—This Transformation is A Process.** “...one degree of glory to another...”

My experience with the Lord is that he work on one thing at a time, but each thing influences and affects other things... but there is a sense of moving from one quality of Christlikeness to another quality of Christlikeness.

Are you still growing and changing and being transformed from the inside-out? Can you tell specific areas of your life where you are more like Jesus than you were a few years ago?

**Are you getting better, or are you just getting older and more set in your ways?** [s] I’m not worried about losing my hair. I’m not worried about losing my memory. I’m worried about not being any more like Jesus. [s] Tommy Oaks story of a sweet old man in the church... joyful, loving, humble, kind, kids loved him... [s] seeking forgiveness of a family I had hurt at UofM Hospital. I want to stay tender and humble and easy to be intreated...

**4—This is a Supernatural Work of the Spirit of God.** “...even as by the Spirit of the Lord...”

**God is interested and involved in our pursuit of holiness... He supernaturally empowers or prayers, and obedience, and efforts, and worship!**

**Conclusion:** There are greater levels of glory than you have experienced! Deeper levels of fellowship. Higher experiences of God. [s] walking out after rain and hearing the singing of the campers and the call of the loon...