

GLORY FOR MUDPIES

Exchanging The Seashore For The Slums

The Glory That Is Ours In Christ

- “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” Ps.16:11
- “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” 1Pet.1:24-25
- In each of us there is a longing for paradise. The beauty of the creation, of music, of love, leaves us with a sense that there is something more to this life. A desire for more that leaves a greater emptiness when we try to fill it with only the things of now.

The Weight of Glory – CS Lewis

- If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

The Exchange of Glory

- ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Rom.1:21-23
- A. The Glory of God is VERY GREAT!
- What is the GLORY God offers to us?

The Promises of Glory

- The Promises of Scripture can be seen in 5 categories
- 1. That we shall be with Christ
- 2. That we shall be like Christ
- 3. With great imagery, that we shall have glory
- 4. That we shall be fed or feasted
- 5. That we shall have some sort of official position, eg. Ruling cities, judging angels, being pillars in the temple
- CS Lewis asks, “Why any of them except the first?”

The Greatness Of The Glory

- 1. BY SAYING IT IS ETERNAL Romans 11:36
- 2. BY CONTRASTING IT WITH THE FRAIL GLORY OF THE WORLD. 1Pet 1:24–25
- 3. BY SPEAKING OF ITS MIGHT AND POWER Col.1:11, 2 Thess1:9
- 4. BY RAISING CHRIST FROM THE DEAD BY IT. Romans 6:4
- 5. BY REPEATEDLY REMINDING US OF THE RICHES OF IT Romans 9:22–23
- 6. BY CONTRASTING ITS JOY TO THIS LIFE’S SUFFERING Romans 8:18
- 7. BY CALLING IT A “WEIGHT OF GLORY” 2 Corinthians 4:17
- 8. BY LINKING ETERNAL PUNISHMENT WITH EXCLUSION FROM IT 2Thess 1:9
- 9. BY SHOWING US THAT IT WILL REPLACE THE SUN Revelation 21:23 .
- 10. BY REVEALING IT IN SETTINGS OF HEAVENLY WORSHIP Revelation 5:11–14
- 11. BY SHOWING US JESUS, THE PERFECT REFLECTION OF IT Heb1:3; Rom5:2

The Greatness Of The Glory

- A. The Glory of God is VERY GREAT! Rom.1:19,20
- B. Man’s rejection of God led to futility in their thinking. 1:21
- C. Their futile thinking led to darkened hearts 1:21b
- D. The exchange feels wise by those who do it 1:22
- E. The dark exchange is foolish, even if it looks wise. 1:23
 - It is foolish because of the difference in value - The glory of the immortal for an image of the corruptible creation
 - They exchanged glory for IMAGES of corrupted IMAGES
 - It is foolish because they exchanged the truth for a lie -25

The Greatness Of The Glory

- Since the fall, people have been trying to fill the emptiness of their soul with stuff, money, power, success... always needing a little bit more, believing that would lead to fulfillment and eternal joy. We regularly hear of the tragedy of “successful” people taking their own lives because they realized that having it all did not fulfill their lives as promised.
- The pleasures of this world are ok when seen as gifts from a gracious God, not for the purpose of feeding my significance.
- We have seen God’s word is truth. Finding your fulfilment in God brings peace for this life and the life come.