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“INAPPROACHABLE LIGHT”

By Jon W. Quinn

“...He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and the Lord of lords; who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen” (1 Timothy 6:15b,16).

Consider and reflect. Here we have a description of our Creator.

I would like us to focus on the idea of “inapproachable light.” The apostle John described God’s moral purity thus way: “God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).

God’s presence is unapproachable by mortal man, partly because of the glories that surround His throne. The light would be unbearable to us in our present mortal state. When men have been granted the opportunity to be given a glimpse of this other-worldly light, the blaze of the glory shined as the sun and brighter yet.

Peter, James and John stood in awe as they witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus. Fourteen hundred years before that, Moses’ face shined for days after having been with the LORD on the mountain.

If one lacks the proper awe and reverence for God in this life, at the judgment seat of Christ their disdain will one day melt away in awe. Irreverence will be replaced with what should have been there all along. Let this respect for God and all things holy be in our hearts and lives now! Reverence now will bring forth reverence and joy then. “...and His face was like the sun, shining in its strength” (Revelation 1:16b).

Because God shelters us from gazing directly at His glory today, we have not seen Him. We are simply not equipped to see God currently. The closest we can come is to look at Jesus, the Son of God and learn of God’s character. “And He is the image of the invisible God...” (Colossians 1:15). It is not that Jesus looked like God in physical appearance, but rather He possesses the love and patience and holiness of the Father. He reveals the Father to us.

One day that will all change when He equips us with spiritual bodies and then we shall directly look upon the face of our Creator for the first time. God told Moses that “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live” (Exodus 33:20). The privilege of seeing God face to face will have to wait until the next age. For now, we must know God by faith in His Son, who has revealed the Father to us.

“To Him be honor and dominion!” Paul exclaimed. The best thing one can do is honor God as God throughout our days here. Then, at the proper time, the Redeemer will return to take us home to the Father. To be ready for that hour, with reverence, we keep the commandments of God (1 Timothy 6:11-14).

“By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us” (1 John 4:17-19).

A Dog's Nose!

- by Robert Hines

A friend of mine in the Navy had an uncle who did a good bit of lumber-jacking in the Northwest early in the 20th century. The biggest and worst surprise he ever got was in an Indian camp. The policy of the logging companies in those days was to stay on as good terms as they could for the sake of peace as well as prosperity. A nearby Indian tribe had invited them all for a meal, and my friend's uncle said the main dish, some sort of stew in a huge cauldron, really was not that bad. It was a different sort of taste, but it was all right. As a matter of fact, it was good enough that he decided he wanted another bowl of the stuff. He got the dipper and stirred around in that big pot and dished himself up a 'mess'. Apparently, he dug a bit deep. Out of the depths of that pot he dished up - - - I suspect I had better just go ahead and say it - - - A DOG'S NOSE!! It's truly amazing how a fellow's appetite can disappear as he comes face to face (or nose to nose!) with the main ingredient!

In the denominational man-made religious world of today there is something that tastes good. It may be the sincerity of its followers, although this is not enough in itself (Acts 26:9). It may be the beautiful buildings which please the eye, although Jesus points us to other things (John 4:20-24). It may be doctrines of easy acceptance, and simple belief, and no possibility of falling from grace, although Jesus demanded strict adherence and faithfulness to His ways, not ours (Revelation 2:10). It may be the appeal of the social gospel rather than basic concern for souls. It may be smooth and eloquent preachers able to paint beautiful word pictures instead of God's simple truths. But behind every one of these things lies the old dog's nose: it is the tradition of men that makes for vain and unacceptable worship (Matthew 15:9).

Men need to dip deep into their beliefs to see if it is God's truth or if it is the dog's nose. It may make you sick at your stomach, but you will at least know what you are eating. And it may just make you change your diet. "Prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). *Collegevue Electronic Beacon Columbia, TN*

Shrewd and Surrendered: Planning Under Providence

By Joel Shouse

We live in a world that thrives on strategy and preparation, yet life still refuses to follow the script we write. Solomon observed that "the race is not to the swift... but time and chance happen to them all" (Eccl. 9:11). We work, prepare, and strategize — but unexpected moments can overturn everything. Still, what looks like "chance" to us is never random to God (Prov. 16:33).

Jesus' parable of the shrewd manager (Luke 16:1–13) highlights this tension. Facing sudden loss, the manager acted decisively to prepare for the future. Though dishonest, he was commended for his foresight. Jesus' point is clear: if the world plans diligently for temporary gain, God's people should plan even more purposefully for eternal things.

Scripture calls us to be both diligent and dependent — to make wise plans while holding them with open hands (James 4:15). Shrewdness without surrender becomes pride; surrender without shrewdness becomes passivity. Faithfulness is found in the balance.

"Time and chance" may place us in situations we never expected, but often those interruptions are God-given opportunities. Our call is simple: use what we have, where we are, for purposes that last. Plan wisely. Trust fully. And seize the moments God places before us.