

June 29, 2020

Good afternoon, Everybody.

Hopefully you've had a good beginning to the week. Saying goodbye to the Davises yesterday was very hard. If it weren't for the fact that the Lord's leading of them has been so unmistakably evident, it would be difficult to accept their leaving; in fact, nearly *impossible* to have had a good beginning to the week! I think we all identify with the scene in Acts 20.



And they *began* to weep aloud and embraced Paul and repeatedly kissed him, grieving. . .

Pete and Leslie were wearing masks after the service last night, so we really couldn't *kiss* them. But the grieving part is very real. Hopefully we won't be in the same position as the Ephesian believers on that ancient occasion. . .

. . . grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again.

By God's grace we *will* see their faces again. There are things called "special meetings," and maybe we can prevail upon them to come be *special* for us again from time to time (smile).

Using the Psalter

One of the things we'll be wanting to do as we proceed with our evening series on Psalms is to find wording that well captures the unique emphasis of some of them. I mentioned in one of the recent messages that I've begun a little "to the side" project of surveying twenty or so commentators to see how they express those emphases from psalm to psalm. I thought that you might enjoy seeing a sample of this. And for my part, I thought that I'd enjoy seeing how you do with assessing a sample.

I'm going to list below twenty-two suggestions from commentators and theologians. Perhaps it won't be too disappointing to you if I don't include their

names, since my own list employs only their initials. But later in the week I'll narrow the list to a half dozen or so, and give you the full names of those.

But what might be a very helpful exercise for you would be to go down through this list, ***with the understanding of the psalm that we arrived at together on Sunday night, June 21*** (sorry to be so emphatic about that; smile), and see which of the following best expresses it. How about if you pick a top three or four?

Here we go. . .

Psalm 8

All Creation Reflects the Majesty of God	AAA
Our God, Our Glory	JMB
Manifestation of Jehovah's Name in the Dominion of the Son of Man	AAB
LORD, our Lord, How Majestic is Your Name in All the Earth	CHB
How Majestic is Your Name	ESVSB
Praise of the Creator (the glory of God bestowed on humans)	NIVSB
What is Man?	PCC
Majestic Name	DRD
How is it possible that "mere mortals" are any concern to God?	MDF
Humanity's Position in Creation	JG
Crown of Creation	DK
The Glory of the Creator and the Dignity of Human Beings	H-JK
God's Glory Revealed in Man's Dignity	HCL
The Power of the Powerless	JAM
You Have Given Them Dominion	JLM
Perfection of Praise/The Man Whom God Made a Little Lower than Himself	ECO
Death of a Champion	JP
Glory Condescending to Mankind	APR
Man the Viceroy of God	WGS
Song of the Astronomer	CHS
A Natural Question	WJT
The Glory of the Creator and of Man	WAV
I AM Rules through "Infants"	BKW

A Word about Glorifying God

Our catechism begins, as most do, with the question of man's chief end.
Answer? *To glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.*

But how do we examine ourselves and what we do from day to day in order to see if we actually *are* glorifying God? Not just taking it for granted; *assuming* that we are. But *knowing* that we are.

Here's an answer that gets to the root.

We glorify God when we live out our faith in response to His commands, *at every hour, day, month, and year, at short notice or not . . . when the Word of the Lord, which is like a pillar of fire or a pillar of cloud (Num. 9:17), commands "Go," we go; or "Come!" we come; or "Stand still," we stand still*

We do this not just when it is convenient or when it suits us to do God's work. We do it even when we see no good reason for doing so, when it is very inconvenient for our flesh, when it is unreasonable to our natural mind, and even when we see many reasons to do just the opposite.

We still do it even when it seems painful, harmful, or shameful, simply because God demands it. And so we show that we prefer God's pure Word and will more than our own reasoning and insight, saying like the apostle Peter to his master, *At thy word I will let down the net* (Luke 5:5). Those who act like this will surely exalt God's glory

--Willem Teellinck (1579-1629)

Isn't that helpful? May the Lord help us this very day. Not just tomorrow! But today! This very afternoon and evening. *Every hour. . .*

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick