

Gazing for Glory

By Steve Pruitt

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV

Man was created to worship. The question is; "What will be the object of man's worship?" In his book "Let Us Worship," Judson Cornwall states, "But while man is a worshiping being, he needs guidance in the choice of the object of his worship. For man, by worshiping, becomes assimilated into the moral character of the object which he worships as the standard of perfection."

Cornwall goes on to share that history has proven that man becomes like the object he worships. The Scythians who overthrew Rome are a good example. Their chief gods were bloodthirsty and cruel hero-gods. They believed that one of their hero-gods killed himself after he had massacred much of the human race. Therefore, those who were not killed in battle frequently committed suicide fearing that to die a natural death would exclude them from the favor of their god Valhalla.

Another example can be found in Paul's day in the city of Corinth. The Corinthians worshiped the goddess Venus, called Aphrodite by the Greeks. She was known as the goddess of love, but goddess of lust would best describe how she was worshiped. The most sacred people in the temple to Venus were the prostitutes who were consecrated for her worship.

The Psalmist understood the concept of becoming like the object being worshiped. *Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.* (Psalm 15:4-8)

Transformation comes as we spend time in God's presence listening, heeding his words and worshiping his person. As we spend time gazing into his image our character becomes conformed to his character. The more time spent in his presence the more we are transformed into his image. God predestined us to look like him. Though worship is for God and an end to itself, transformation is a vital benefit of worship.

What is the focus of your gaze? Do you spend time gazing on the Father? Ask the Father to give you eyes for him alone. Ask him to conform you into his image.

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Scriptures for meditation:

- Psalm 25:15
- Psalm 101:3
- Psalm 119:37
- Matthew 6:22