



THE
WESTMINSTER
STANDARDS

Containing the

CONFESSION
OF
FAITH

Together with

the SHORTER & LARGER
CATECHISMS

Deut 6:6,7 *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

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**Q. 1. WHAT IS THE
CHIEF END OF MAN?**

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**Q. 1. WHAT IS THE
CHIEF END OF MAN?**

**A. Man's chief end is to glorify
God, and to enjoy him forever.**

Isaiah 43:7

⁶I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'


Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

Romans



DID GOD'S
PLAN FAIL?
CHAPTERS 9-11

[Paul] ends Romans 9–11 celebrating God's marvelous plan for humankind. God's wisdom and knowledge, his plans and his purposes, are ultimately quite beyond the capacity of any human being to figure out. How does his unconditional election mesh with the demand that human beings believe and obey? How does God remain fair and impartial even as he promises salvation in the future to a significant number of Jews? How can he work in the lives of individuals to accomplish his plans?



We have every right to ask such questions, but we must be cautious about demanding clear and logical answers. We cannot penetrate the mind of God. He does not need to consult us before he decides what he is going to do. At a certain point, we must stop questioning and demanding answers and simply believe and worship.

~ Douglas J. Moo, *Encountering the Book of Romans : A Theological Survey* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 172.

Romans 11:33-36

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.



BIG

QUESTIONS



- Where are the Jewish People?
- Did God revoke his promises?
- What is the Real Storyline of Scripture?
- Does God still offer mercy to unworthy people?
- How does the sovereignty of God fit with our responsibility?




J. I. PACKER

FOREWORD BY MARK DEVER

EVANGELISM
AND THE
SOVEREIGNTY
OF GOD

BY THE AUTHOR OF *KNOWING GOD*

What is an antinomy? The *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* defines it as “a contradiction between conclusions which seem equally logical, reasonable or necessary.” For our purposes, however, this definition is not quite accurate; the opening words should read “an appearance of contradiction.” For the whole point of an antinomy – in theology, at any rate – is that it is not a real contradiction, though it looks like one. It is an apparent incompatibility between two apparent truths.



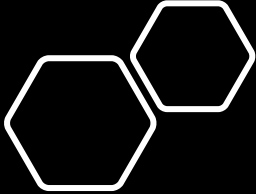
An antinomy exists when a pair of principles stand side by side, seemingly irreconcilable, yet both undeniable. There are cogent reasons for believing each of them; each rests on clear and solid evidence; but it is a mystery to you how they can be squared with each other. You see that each must be true on its own, but you do not see how they can both be true together.



You don't know what it is, but it's there

like a splinter in your mind, driving you mad

quickmeme.com



For our minds dislike antinomies. We like to tie up everything into neat intellectual parcels, with all appearance of mystery dispelled and no loose ends hanging out. Hence we are tempted to get rid of antinomies from our minds by illegitimate means: to suppress, or jettison, one truth in the supposed interests of the other, and for the sake of a tidier theology. So it is in the present case. The temptation is to undercut and maim the one truth by the way in which we stress the other: to assert man's responsibility in a way that excludes God from being sovereign, or to affirm God's sovereignty in a way that destroys the responsibility of man. Both mistakes need to be guarded against.

~ J. I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* (Westmont, IL: IVP Books, 2012), 32.

The Freedom of Worship

1. The Depth of God's Riches

Romans 11:33a

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

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The Freedom of Worship

1. The Depth of God's Riches

Ephesians 1:7-8

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us.

The Freedom of Worship

1. The Depth of God's Riches

Ephesians 2:4-7

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

The Freedom of Worship

2. The Depth of God's Wisdom

Romans 11:33b

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

The Freedom of Worship

2. The Depth of God's Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

³⁰It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

The Freedom of Worship

3. The Depth of God's Knowledge

Romans 11:33c

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.



The Freedom of Worship

4. His Judgement is Impeccable

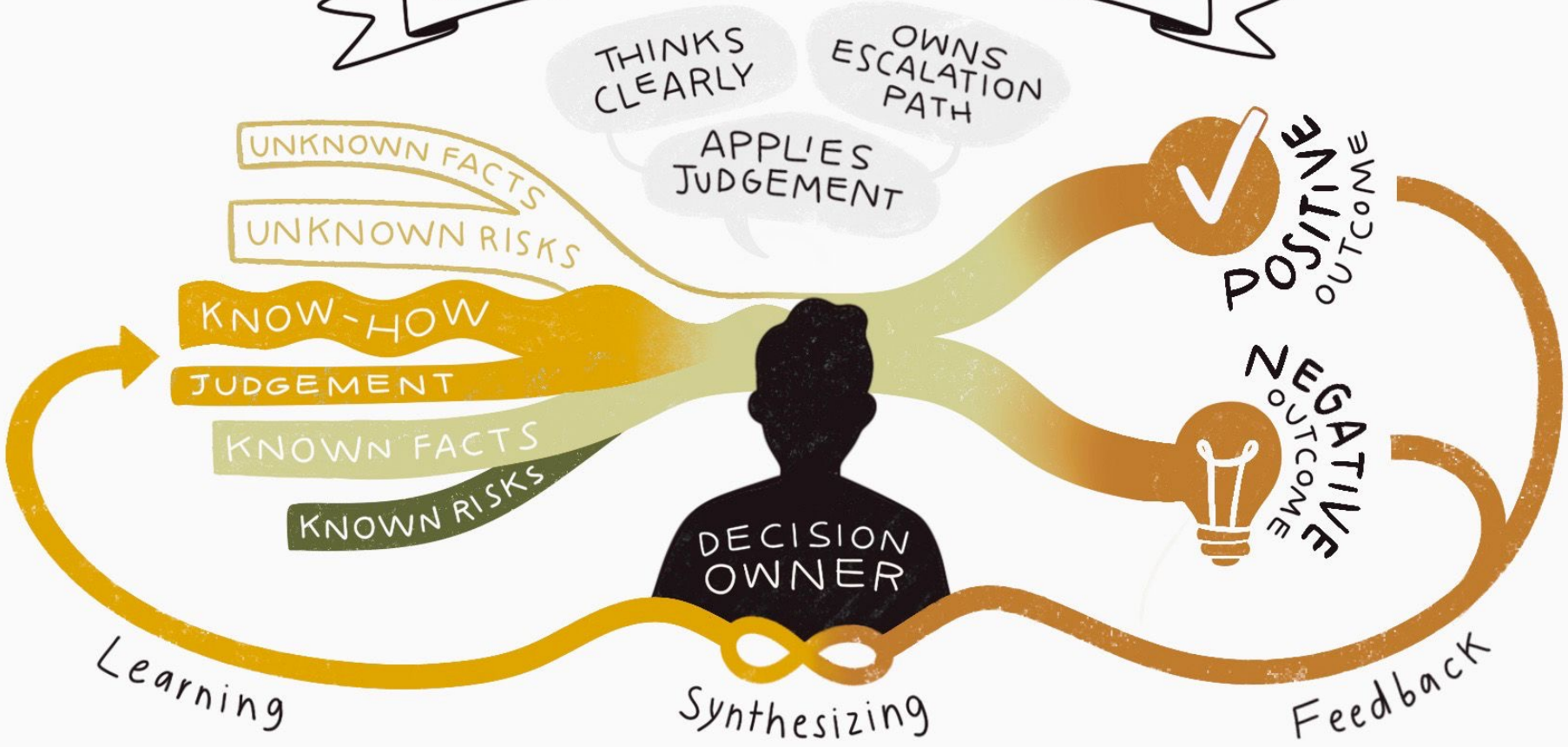
Romans 11:33d

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.



35,000
decisions in
a day! Are
you making
the right
decisions?

DECISION PROCESS



The Freedom of Worship

5. His ways are inscrutable

Romans 11:33e

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³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.



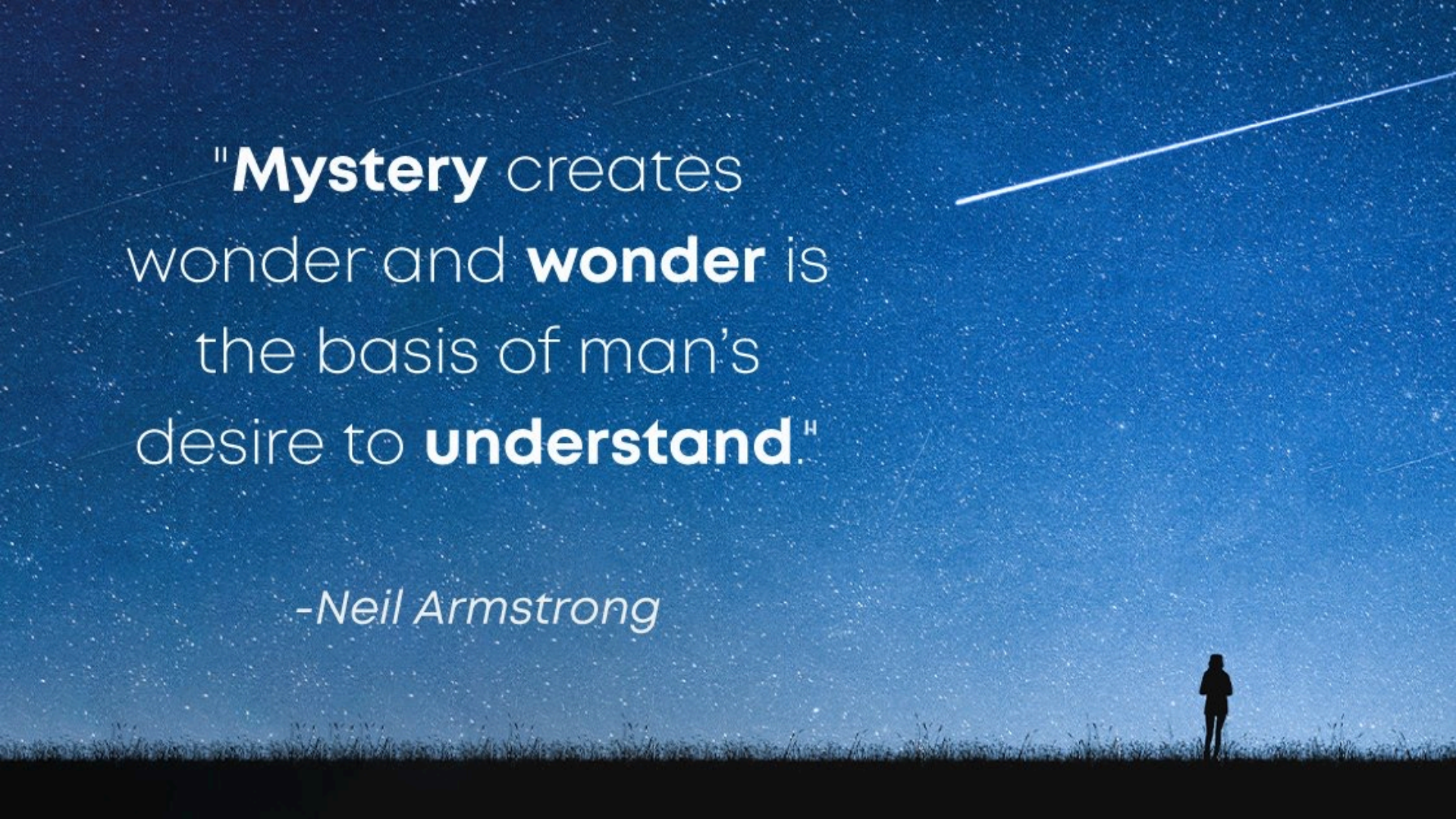
Inscrutable

adjective

(in- 'skrü-tə-bəl)

not readily investigated,
interpreted, or understood :
MYSTERIOUS

~ Merriam-Webster Dictionary
online (inscrutable)

A person is silhouetted against a vast, starry night sky. A bright, white streak, likely a meteor or comet, cuts across the upper right portion of the frame. The sky is filled with numerous small, distant stars, and the overall color palette is a deep, dark blue.

"**Mystery** creates
wonder and **wonder** is
the basis of man's
desire to **understand**."

-Neil Armstrong

What the Bible does is to assert both [God's sovereignty and human responsibility] side by side in the strongest and most unambiguous terms as two ultimate facts; this, therefore, is the position that we must take in our own thinking. C. H. Spurgeon was once asked if he could reconcile these two truths to each other. "I wouldn't try," he replied; "I never reconcile friends." Friends? — yes, friends. This is the point that we have to grasp. In the Bible, divine sovereignty and human responsibility are not enemies. They are not uneasy neighbors; they are not in an endless state of cold war with each other. They are friends, and they work together.

~ J. I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* (Westmont, IL: IVP Books, 2012), 43.

The Freedom of Worship

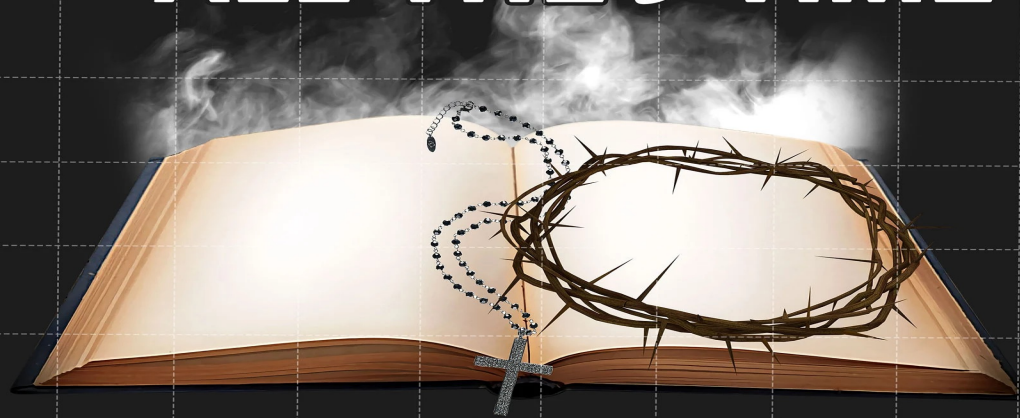
6. God is omniscient

Romans 11:34

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

God is good
ALL THE TIME



AND ALL THE
TIME
God is good

The Freedom of Worship

7. God has no debts to anyone

Romans 11:35

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.



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The Freedom of Worship

8. It is all about God

Romans 11:36a

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Now they see that the way to find the happiness that God promises is not to seek it as an end in itself, but to forget oneself in the daily preoccupation of seeking God's glory and doing his will and proving his power through the ups and downs and stresses and strains of everyday life. They see that it is the glory and praise of God that must absorb them henceforth, for time and for eternity. They see that the whole purpose of their existence is that with heart and life they should worship and exalt God. In every situation, therefore, their one question is: what will make the most for God's glory? What should I do in order that in these circumstances God may be magnified?

~ J. I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* (Westmont, IL: IVP Books, 2012), 38.

The Freedom of Worship

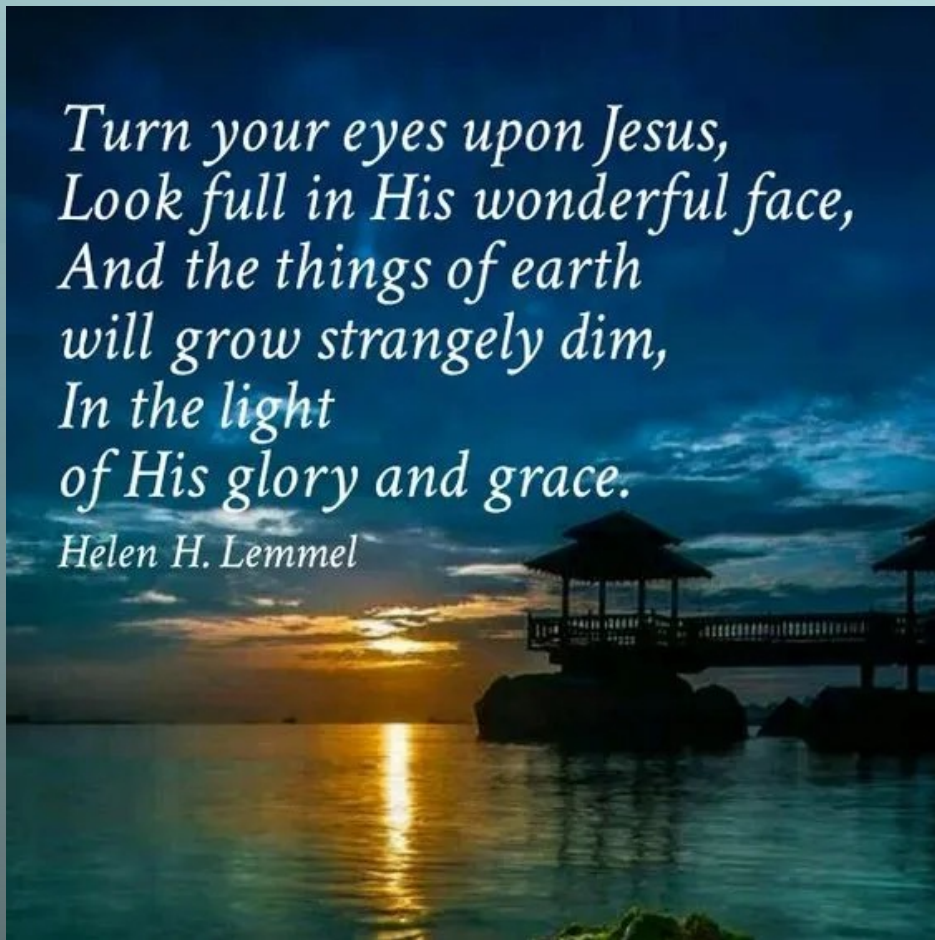
9. To Him (alone) be the Glory!

Romans 11:36b

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth
will grow strangely dim,
In the light
of His glory and grace.*

Helen H. Lemmel



The Freedom of Worship

10. Live in the Amen.

Romans 11:33-36

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Gospel Application

Gospel Application

1. Come to Worship

Gospel Application

1. Come to Worship
2. Live to Worship

Gospel Application

1. Come to Worship
2. Live to Worship
3. Worship in the Mystery

Gospel Application

1. Come to Worship
2. Live to Worship
3. Worship in the Mystery
4. Worship Father, Son and Holy Ghost