

Growing in glory: a true self-image and a joyful discontent

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Seminar aims:

To help us – including those we help - live out our fundamental identity as those who already reflect Christ's glory, but who still need to grow in more glory

And to find joy in the glory that is already present, and discontent about where we fall short

Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:1-4:6

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 ESV ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ 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.

Speaking and responding to our present glory while falling short of glory

Specific people and situations (discussion)

2 Cor 3:17-18 as surprisingly optimistic about the present, delightfully hopeful about the future, and yet, soberingly realistic about falling short

2 Cor 3 as God's method of transformation - 'God's black box'

Specific people and 2 Cor 3 (discussion)

The counter-cultural method of 2 Cor 3

What methods for change are our counselees (us?) pursuing? (discussion)

'Learning Christ' as per Eph 4:17-24

False gospels for our lack of glory

Christ and the false gospels

How have you applied 2 Cor 3:17-18? (discussion)

How to look at the Lord through his Word by his Spirit – overcoming common obstacles

- Keep on teaching by word and example, speaking the Word daily to each other (Heb 3:12-15)
- Meditating on the Word reconsidered
How do you meditate on God's word day and night? How do you help your counselees do it? (discussion)

Ps 1

Ps 77

Col 3:16

Eph 5:18-20

1 Tim 4:13)

- Learning to put on Christ. Living to love, please, exalt, listen to, and obey him
- Imitating Christ as our brothers and sisters imitate him (1 Cor 11:1)
- Repenting when we fall short of his glory is essential to transformation
- Imitating Christ by moving towards those around us in love
- Pouring out our distress upon him, with others
- Making use of wisdom from the Spirit more broadly