

Devotional Thoughts :: A vulture, a worm eternally gnawing him! -brooks

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A vulture, a worm eternally gnawing him!

(Thomas Brooks, "Heaven on Earth" 1667)

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory." 2 Corinthians 3:18

Saving knowledge is a transforming knowledge, which metamorphoses the soul. Divine light beating on the heart, warms it, and betters it; it transforms and changes it, it moulds and fashions it into the very likeness of Christ!

The naturalists observe that the pearl, by the often beating of the sunbeams upon it, becomes radiant. Just so, the often beating and shining of the Sun of righteousness, with His divine beams, upon the saints, causes them to glisten and shine in . . .

holiness,
righteousness,
heavenly-mindedness,
humbleness, etc.

Divine light casts a general beauty and glory upon the soul; it transforms a man more and more into the glorious image of Christ!

Look! as the child receives his features from his parents; just so, the beams of divine light and knowledge shining into the soul, stamp the living image of Christ upon the soul.

Mere notional knowledge may make a man excellent at praising the glorious and worthy acts and virtues of Christ; but that transforming knowledge which accompanies salvation, will work a man divinely to imitate the glorious acts and virtues of Christ.

When a beam of divine light shined from heaven upon Paul, ah, how did it change and metamorphose him! How did it alter and transform him! It made his rebellious soul, obedient: "Lord, what will You have me to do?" Acts 9:6. Divine light lays upon a man a happy necessity of obeying God. Divine light makes . . .

this lion--into a lamb,
this persecutor--into a preacher,
this destroyer of the saints--into a strengthener of the saints,
this tormenter--into a comforter,
this monster--into an angel,
this notorious blasphemer--into a very great admirer of God,
and the actings of His free grace.

Just so, when a spark of this heavenly fire fell upon the heart of Mary Magdalene, oh what a change, what a transformation does

it make in her! Now she loves much, and believes much, and repents much, and weeps much. Oh what a change did divine light make in Zacchaeus, and in the jailor!

Truly, if your light, your Biblical knowledge does not better you, if it does not change and transform you; if, under all your light and knowledge you remain as vile and base as ever; your light, your knowledge, your notions, your speculations, will undo you. That knowledge which is not a transforming knowledge--will torment a man at last more than all the devils in hell; it will be . . .
a sword to cut him,
a rod to lash him,
a serpent to bite him,
a scorpion to sting him, and
a vulture, a worm eternally gnawing him!

God at last will own no knowledge, but that which leaves the stamp of Christ, the print of Christ, the image of Christ upon the heart; but that which changes and transforms the soul, which makes a man a new man, another man than what he was before divine light shined upon him.

Re: A vulture, a worm eternally gnawing him! -brooks - posted by enid, on: 2006/9/21 6:19

As it says in the above scripture, about reflecting the Lord's glory, I wonder if I do?

We should be shining, and changing into His glory, for His glory. Are we? We need to examine ourselves in the light of God's word.

God transformed Saul, who became the apostle Paul. What a transformation! Do we desire such a transformation, or are we too 'comfortable'?
Do we fear such a change, knowing the rejection that will come from it, especially from the church itself?

Tragically, to reject God's light means to reject God. Which, in turn, means that God rejects us. That rejection will last for all eternity. Total, everlasting, separation from God. Who here wants that?

Then let God's light shine upon us for His glory.

We need His visitation, and now!

God bless.