

The Life of God in the Soul of Man

Henry Scougal

Scougal now calls our attention to the truth of Colossians 3:3.

The _____ nature of the divine life

“That life which is hid with Christ in God, and therefore hath no glorious show or appearance in the world and to the natural man will seem a mean and insipid thing.”

“There is no reason why we should be alarmed if, on looking around on every side, we nowhere see life. For we are saved by hope...Nor does he teach that our life is hid merely in the opinion of the world, but even as to our own view, because this is the true and necessary trial of our hope, that being encompassed, as it were, with death, we may seek life somewhere else than in the world.”-Calvin

Theology of Glory vs. Theology of the Cross

Theology of glory sees everything in terms of earthly glory/success

“A theology of glory expects total success, finding all the answers, winning all the battles, and living happily ever after. The theology of glory is all about my strength, my power, and my works. A theologian of glory expects his church to be perfect and always to grow. If a theologian of glory gets sick, he expects God to heal him. And if he experiences failure and weakness, if his church has problems and if he is not healed, then he is often utterly confused, questioning the sufficiency of his faith and sometimes questioning the very existence of God.”

“But, Luther pointed out, when God chose to save us, He did not follow the way of glory. He did not come as a great hero-king, defeating his enemies and establishing a mighty kingdom on earth. Rather, He came as a baby laid in an animal trough, a man of sorrows with no place to lay His head. And He saved us by the weakness and shame of dying on a cross.”¹

How is God most _____ at present? The theologian of glory will say in mighty displays of outward grandeur, splendor, and majesty. A theologian of cross will say “His power is made perfect in _____.” Quietly persevering in faith is more glorious in the sight of God than any mere outward mighty work.

We are naturally drawn to a theology of glory. We must walk by faith and not by sight. Theology of glory is simply _____ religion that is consumed with self-love. Whereas the divine life is drawn to God over and above this life (Colossians 3:1-2).

The root and fruits of this divine life

¹ <https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/glory-versus-cross>

“The root of divine life is faith; the chief branches are: love to God, charity to man, purity, and humility.”

_____ (root)- *“...being nothing else but a kind of sense or feeling persuasion of spiritual things. It extends itself unto all divine truths; but, in our lapsed estate, it hath a peculiar relation to the declarations of God’s mercy and reconcilableness to sinners through a Mediator, and therefore, receiving its denomination from the principal object, is ordinarily termed faith in Jesus Christ.”*

_____ **to God** (branch)- *“A delightful and affectionate sense of the divine perfections which makes the soul resign and sacrifice itself wholly unto Him, desiring above all things to please Him, and delighting in nothing so much as in fellowship and communion with Him, and being ready to do or suffer any thing for His sake or at His pleasure.”*

_____ **to man** (branch)- *“A soul thus possessed with divine love must needs be enlarged towards all mankind a sincere and unbounded affection, because of the relation they have to God, being His creatures and having something of His image stamped upon them.”*

_____ (branch)- *“Mastery over the inferior appetites, or such a temper and disposition of mind as makes a man despise and abstain from all pleasures and delights of sense or fancy which are sinful in themselves or tend to extinguish or lessen our relish of more divine and intellectual pleasures.”*

_____ (branch)- *“A deep sense of our own weakness, with a hearty and affectionate acknowledgement of our owing all that we are to the divine bounty, which is always accompanied with a profound submission to the will of God and great deadness towards the glory of the world and applause of men.”*

“These are the highest perfections that either men or angels are capable of; the very foundation of heaven laid in the soul. And he who hath attained them needs not desire to pry into the hidden rolls of God’s decrees or search the volumes of heaven to know what is determined about His everlasting condition, but he may find a copy of God’s thoughts concerning him writing in his own breast.”

The best example we have of the _____ life is to look at the life of our Lord Jesus Christ whose “presence did beautify and illustrate this lower world”.