

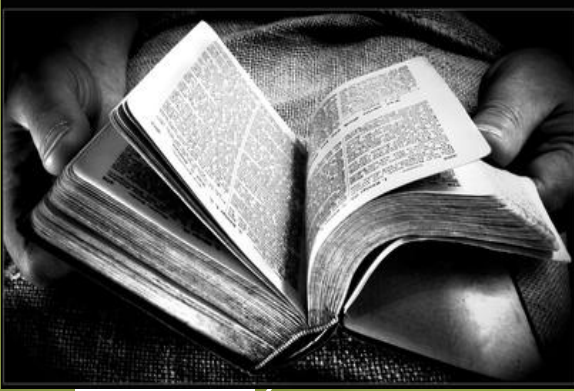
Making the Connection: Beauty, Wonder, and Worship

Part 1



By Bill Smith

Scripture says . . .



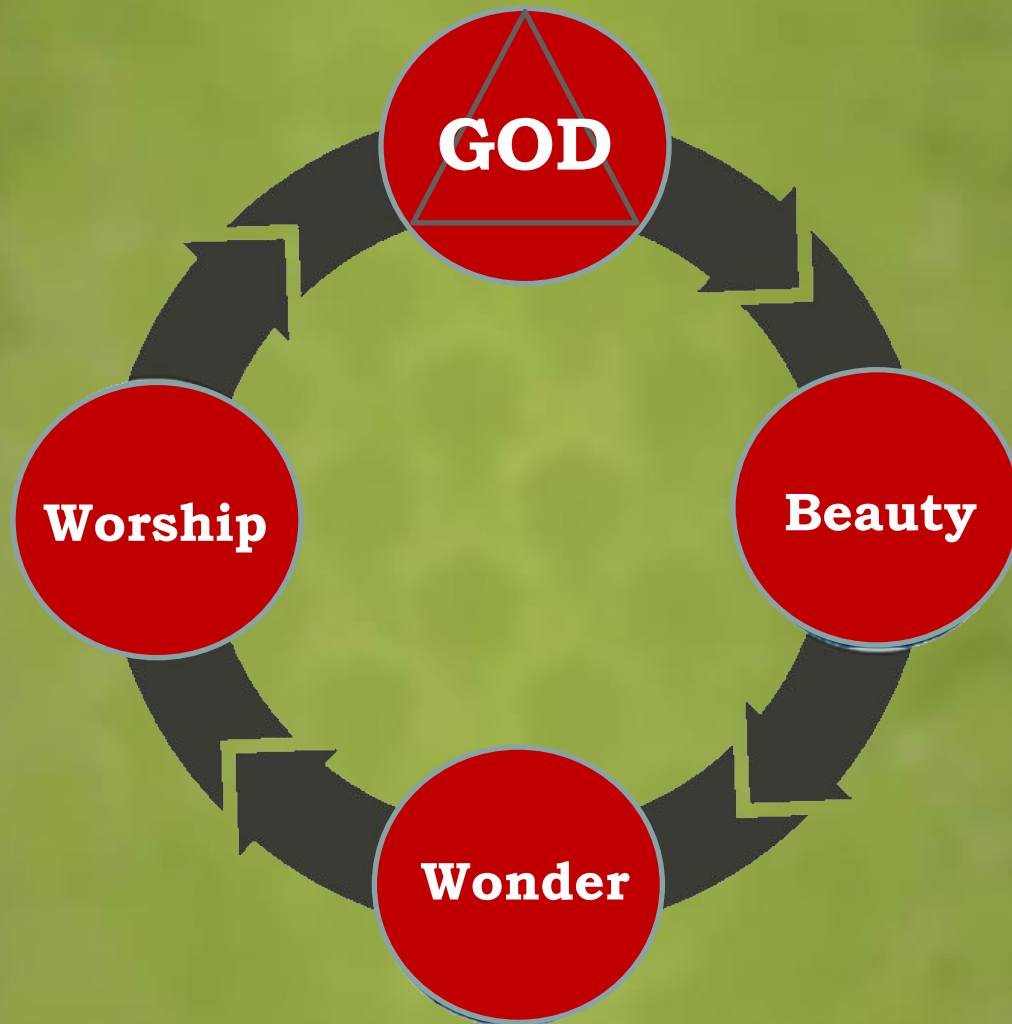
Ps. 19:1: “The heavens
ing of the glory of
ir expanse is declaring the
works of his hands.”

Rom. 1:20: “For since the creation of the
world his invisible attributes, his
eternal power and divine nature,
have been clearly seen, being understood
by what has been made.”

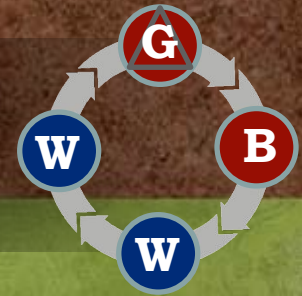
Where we are headed

- ❖ Highlight the connection in Scripture between beauty, wonder, and worship
- ❖ Benefit from the wisdom that other witnesses tell us about the connection between beauty, wonder, and worship
- ❖ Identify some transformative disciplines that can help us experience these connections

Connection



Beauty is . . .



Connection



- ◆ a combination of qualities (color, shape, or form) that makes something pleasant to look at, attractive, or appealing
- ◆ beauty inspires, awakens, attracts, or motivates us



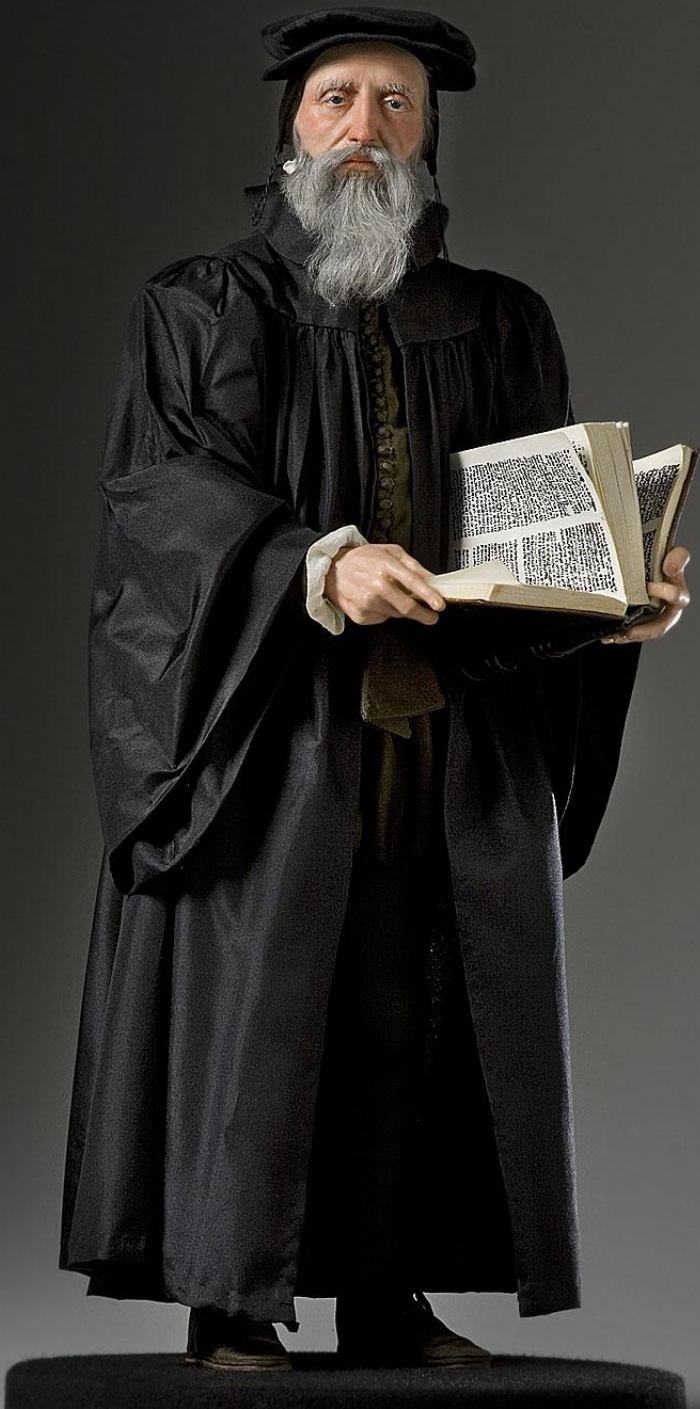
C.S. Lewis

“Beauty descends from God into nature: but there it would perish and does except when a man appreciates it with worship and thus as it were sends it back to God: so that through his consciousness what descended ascends again and the perfect circle is made.”

**The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis,
Volume 1, p. 222**







John Calvin:

says that we are “formed to be a spectator of the created world and given eyes that he might be led to its author by contemplating so beautiful a representation.”

Commentary on

Peter Frost

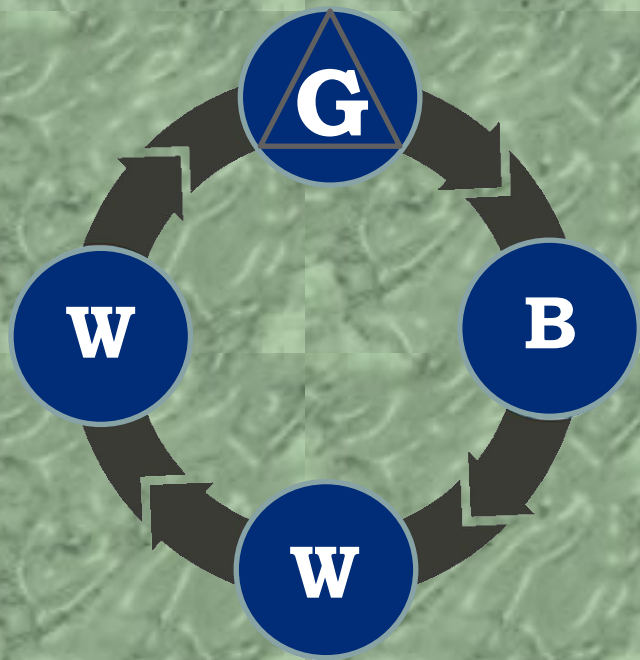
“How ugly the stars are tonight! How trivial the pounding of the waves on the beach! And is it not crass to be thrilled by the mountains? The rain forest and the wild-flowers are quite repulsive. And as for the sunsets. . .”

“If a full-blown relativism in aesthetics was correct, then those responses would be unusual but not in any way improper. But my reaction is that anyone who fails to appreciate the beauty of this universe is defective.”

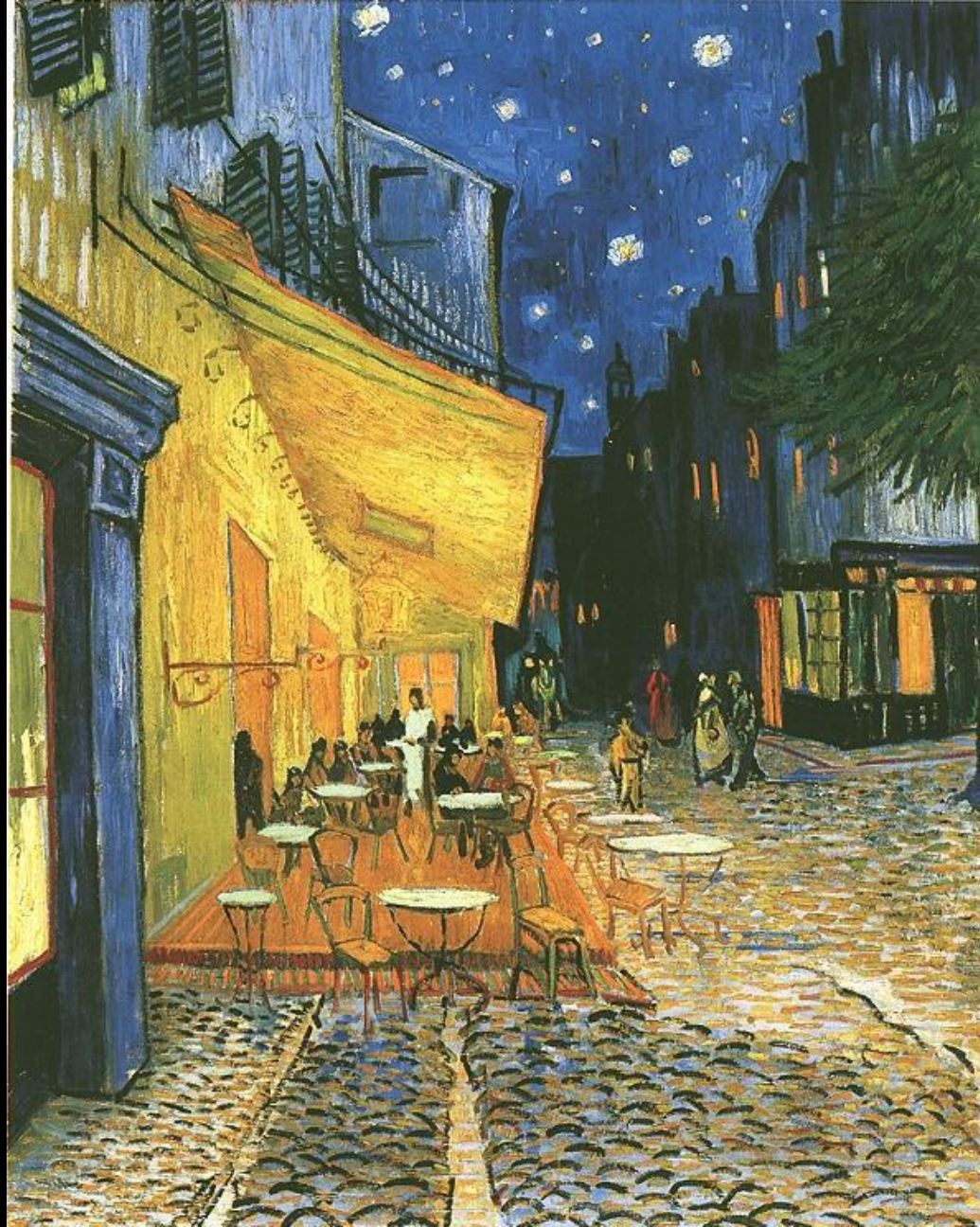


From the Hubble Telescope

Connection







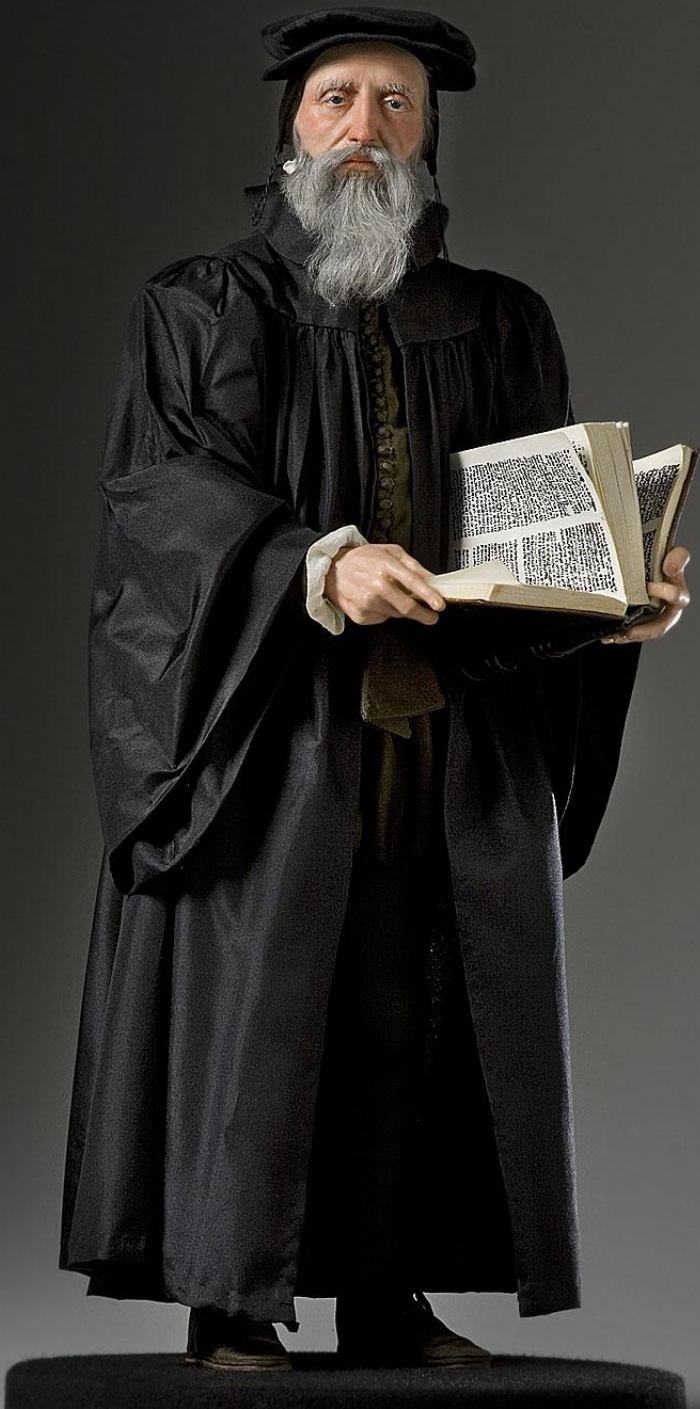
Vincent Van Gogh, Café On the Terrace



Wonder is . . .



- ❖ “a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration caused by something beautiful, unexpected, or inexplicable”
- ❖ Steve Dewitt: “. . . wonder is what image bearers feel when they glimpse a reflection of God’s beauty. This beauty can be seen in creation or in Scripture”



John Calvin:

**“As soon as we
acknowledge God to be the
supreme architect, who
has erected the beauteous
fabric of the universe, our
minds must necessarily be
ravished with wonder at
his infinite goodness,
wisdom, and power.”**

***Commentary on
Ps. 104:1***





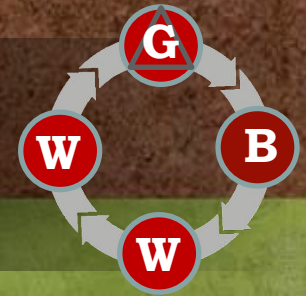




Itaipu Dam, Paraguay



Worship is . . .



Connection

the fitting response of the whole person to God—for who he is, what he has done, is doing, and has promised to do.

Psalms: 33, 104, 148





C.S. Lewis

“... of every created thing I praise, I should say, ‘In some way, in its unique way, like Him who made it.’

Thus up from the garden to the Gardener, from the sword to the Smith. To the life-giving Life and the Beauty that makes beautiful.”



C.S. Lewis

“But for our body one whole realm of God’s glory— all that we receive through our senses— would go unpraised. . . . I fancy the ‘beauties of nature’ are a secret God has shared with us alone. That may be one of the reasons why we were made— and why the resurrection of the body is an important doctrine.”

10 Resolutions to Remain Enthralled with God's Wonders

by Clyde Kilby

"At least once every day I shall
look steadily up at the sky and
remember that I am a consciousness
with a conscience, am on a planet traveling
space with wonderfully mysterious things
and about me."



<http://www.wheaton.edu/wadecenter/Welcome/History/Biographies/Clyde-Kilby>

10 Resolutions to Remain Enthralled with God's Wonders

by Clyde Kilby

“I shall open my eyes and ears. Once every day I shall simply stare at a tree, a flower, a cloud, or a person. I shall not then be concerned at all to ask what they are but simply be glad that they are. I shall joyfully allow them the mystery of what Lewis calls their “divine, magical, terrifying and ecstatic” existence.”



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