

Using Creation in our pursuit of the Creator

Introduction:

Why is “camp” used of the Lord in such powerful ways?

Why do weekend retreats have such a profound impact in lives?

We were made to enjoy creation. It is a weapon in our arsenal of seeking the LORD.

God made the world that he might communicate, and the creature receive, his glory; but that it might [be] received both by the mind and heart. He that testifies his having an idea of God’s glory [doesn’t] glorify God so much as he that testifies also his approbation of it and his delight in it (Jonathan Edwards; *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, Vol. 13; ed. by Thomas Schafer).

Romans 1: 20

Context:

What should we learn?

Psalm 19:1-6 (cf. Psalm 8: 3-5)

Context:

What should we learn?

So it is apparent, that the glory of God is actually the result and consequence of the creation of the world (*The End for Which God Created the World*, Jonathan Edwards, Piper reprint, page 210).

Psalm 33:1-9; 18-21

Context:

What should we learn?

Taking a quiet stroll outdoors can be seen as a treasured rendezvous with our dearest friend Christ Himself. Often, often, His presence is so poignant, so pervasive in a setting of trees, fields, a garden, beside a stream or on a mountain ridge that I must pause to relish the moment....It has been said that many of the most precious things in life are absolutely free. Walking is one of them. It can begin at your own front door (*Strength of Soul*, page 140, Phillip Keller).

Psalm 23:1-3

Context:

What should we learn?

All of us need to find some quiet waters in life. Like the oasis for the caravan crossing the sun-scorched desert, so still waters are for the soul seared by the anguish of sorrow. There need to be moments of respite when in utter tranquility of spirit our Father can be given opportunity to speak softly to renew our spirits (*Sky Edge*, Phillip Keller, page 183).

Psalm 24:1-2

Context:

What should we learn?

Isaiah 40: 21-31

Context:

What should we learn?

Romans 1:25

Context:

Said of famous Yosemite artist Thomas Hill (1829-1908), “The most ardent devotee at the shrine of Yosemite and the most faithful priest of the valley.”

What should we learn?

I Tim. 4:3-4 and 6:17

Context:

What should we learn?

What conclusions can we draw?

Ideas for implementing them?