

Luke 2:19 Treasuring and Pondering the Glory of God in Christ

The revelation of God's glory in Jesus Christ calls for adoring reflection.

- 1) **Adoring reflection begins with an attitude of treasuring the revelation of God's glory in Christ.**
 - a) Anti-attitudes:
 - i) apathy—bored by seeming overfamiliarity with words
 - ii) laziness—"I'm not an intellectual, so theological reflection is too much work for me." "It seems pretty straightforward, so why bother making it harder by thinking about it."
 - iii) pride—"I'm satisfied with what I know. I know enough to get along."
 - b) Repentance—need to turn away from every attitude that undervalues growing in the knowledge of God's glory in Christ
 - c) Stimulants to spiritual hunger
 - i) The inter-connectedness of all truth
 - ii) The infinity of God
 - iii) The enjoyment of God
- 2) **Adoring reflection requires active intellectual labor with the revelation of God's glory in Christ.**
 - a) Counterfeits:
 - i) Vain Speculation
 - ii) Innovation
 - iii) Knowledge as a means for self-exaltation
 - iv) Reading a lot without reflection
 - b) Intellectual Labor:
 - i) Reading/Thinking Prayerfully—God dispenses Truth (Luke 8:10; 10:21-24; 24:45)
 - ii) Reading Thoughtfully—
 - (1) Theologically: What does this text reveal about God?
 - (2) Evangelically: How does this text point to the good news of Jesus Christ?
 - (3) Contextually: How is this text related to the surrounding context? What genre am I reading and how should that affect my approach to the language?
 - (4) Obediently: What warnings might I take away from this text? What does God require of me in the light of this text? How does this text motivate?
 - (5) Are their promises in this text?
 - iii) Pondering—How is this truth related to other doctrines of the Christian faith? How does this fit into redemptive history? What are the implications of this truth for my relationships, daily decisions, thoughts, and attitudes?
 - (1) It may help to write down questions and insights.
 - (2) You can ponder while you're on a walk/run, or just lying in bed at night.
 - (3) It may be necessary to set aside a time for pondering.
 - iv) Intentional Conversations
 - c) Learning from the Teachers of the Church
- 3) **Adoring reflection will promote worship, trust and obedience.**