





Lessons from the Garden

- If there's a Garden - there is a Gardener





Romans 9: 20, 23

Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, "Why have you made me like this?"

.....He does this to make **the riches of his glory shine** even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, **who were prepared in advance for glory.**

Ephesians 1:4-14

4 **For he chose us** in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 **to the praise of his glorious grace**, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

11 In him we were also **chosen** having been **predestined according to the plan** of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be **for the praise of his glory**. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, **you were marked in him** with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to **the praise of his glory**.

Lessons from the Garden

- If there's a Garden - there is a Gardener
- The Gardener wants variety and the Gardener wants you

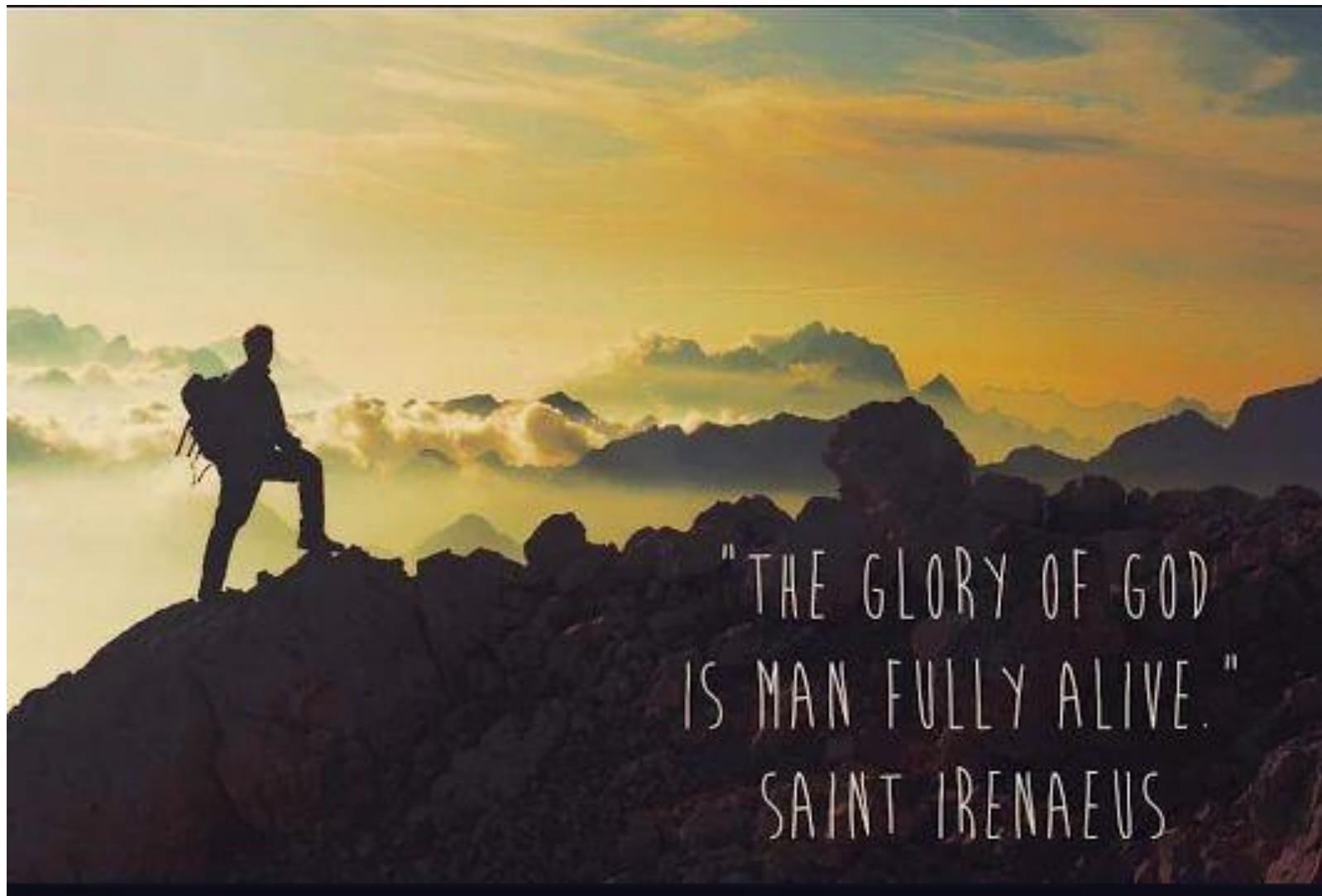


“The more we get what we now call “ourselves” out of the way and let Him take us over, the more truly ourselves we become. There is so much of Him that millions and millions of “little Christs,” all different, will still be too few to express Him fully. He made them all. He invented—as an author invents characters in a novel—all the different men that you and I were intended to be. In that sense our real selves are all waiting for us in Him.”

C.S. Lewis

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.



"THE GLORY OF GOD
IS MAN FULLY ALIVE."
SAINT IRENAEUS

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

There is one body, but it **has many parts**. But all its **many parts** make up one body. It is the same with Christ. 13 We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. 14 So the body is not made up of just one part. It has **many parts**.

15 Suppose the foot says, "I am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body." By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. 16 And suppose the ear says, "I am not an eye. So I don't belong to the body." By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? 18 **God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be.** 19 If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? 20 As it is, there are **many parts**. But there is only one body.

21 The eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you!" The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 In fact, it is just the opposite. The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are the ones we can't do without. 23 The parts that we think are less important we treat with special honor. The private parts aren't shown. But they are treated with special care. 24 The parts that can be shown don't need special care. But **God has put together all the parts of the body.** And he has given more honor to the parts that didn't have any. 25 In that way, the parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of one another. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy.

27 You are the body of Christ. **Each one of you is a part of it.**

Lessons from the Garden

- If there's a Garden - there is a Gardener
- The Gardener wants variety and the Gardener wants you
- Rootstock is Important





Colossians 2:7

Plant your roots in Christ and let him be the foundation for your life.

John 15:4-8

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you **remain in me**.

5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who **remain in me**, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Anyone who does not **remain in me** is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. 7 But if you **remain in me** and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! 8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. **This brings great glory to my Father.**





- Do you believe HE is a good Gardener - can you trust that HE knows best? Are you willing to submit to HIS plan?
- Do you believe that you're HIS PLAN A? That your neighbour is also HIS PLAN A?
- Are you remaining in Him? Are you living out of HIS ROOTSOCK strength or out of your own strength?