The Beauty of God in the Life of a Believer (Ps 90:17)

I. SEEING THE VALUE AND BEAUTY OF THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

- A. Moses prayed that the beauty of God would be released and seen in God's people in a greater way.

 17Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us... (Ps. 90:17)
- B. Jesus was anointed by the Father to impart His beauty to His people. Our relationship with Jesus and choices for love and godly character are aspects of this beauty in this age. In the age to come, it includes our resurrected body, home in the New Jerusalem, and perfect love in His family life.

 1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me... 10 give them beauty for ashes... (Isa. 61:1-3)

 4 For the Lord... will beautify the humble with salvation. (Ps. 149:4)
- C. We must intentionally search out God's beauty—including the beauty God imparts to His people.

 *One thing I have desired...all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord. (Ps. 27:4)
- D. The glory or beauty of our life is "hidden" in Christ—we do not automatically see it without intentionally looking for it. This hidden beauty will be fully revealed when Christ is fully revealed.

 3For...your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear [the "hidden" glory of God in your life] with Him in glory. (Col. 3:3-4)
- E. We cultivate a gentle (humble) spirit by serving and a quiet (peaceable) spirit by trusting God. Beauty is what is attractive to God. He sees godly attitudes and actions as beautiful and precious.
 - ⁴...let it be the <u>hidden</u> person of the heart, with the <u>incorruptible beauty</u> of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is <u>very precious</u> in the sight of God. (1 Pet. 3:4)

II. WHY WE ARE BEAUTIFUL TO GOD

- A. *Personality of God*: We are beautiful to God in redemption by virtue of who God is. His person is ultimate beauty and the source of all beauty. Thus, He defines and declares what is beautiful.
- B. *Gift of righteousness*: We are clothed with the beauty of Jesus' righteousness (2 Cor. 5:17-21).
- C. **Design of the human spirit**: We were created in God's image, in a way that He sees as beautiful. God designed humans to be His children and Jesus' Bride—the cross enables this to happen.
- D. *Godly choices*: Our willing spirit, sincere intentions, and choices to obey God are beautiful and precious to God (1 Pet. 3:4; cf. Mt. 26:41, 1 Jn. 3:9; Ps. 51:10, 17; 34:18; Isa. 57:15; 66:2)
- E. *Our eternal destiny*: We are the Father's chosen inheritance for Jesus. He sees us according to where we are going in our destiny in redemption. The fact that our eternal destiny is to be Jesus' Bride means that, for 99.9999999999% of our life, we will walk in the full beauty of holiness.

⁷We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence...may be of God... (2 Cor. 4:7)

III. THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- A. The Lord declared that His people are like a special treasure and like jewels in a crown.
 - ⁵...if you will indeed obey My voice...then you shall be a <u>special treasure</u> to Me... (Ex. 19:5)
 - ¹⁶The LORD...will save them...for they shall be like the jewels of a crown... (Zech. 9:16)
 - ³You shall also be a <u>crown of glory</u>...and a <u>royal diadem</u> in the hand of your God. (Isa. 62:3)
- B. The Lord created the New Jerusalem as a Bride prepared and made beautiful for her husband.
 - ²...<u>New Jerusalem</u>, coming down out of heaven...<u>prepared as a bride adorned</u> for her husband...

 ¹⁴The...city had <u>twelve foundations</u>, and on them were the names of the <u>twelve apostles</u> ... ¹⁹The foundations...were adorned with...<u>precious stones</u>:...<u>jasper</u>...<u>sapphire</u>...<u>emerald</u>, ²⁰<u>sardius</u>...

 (Rev. 21:2-20)
- C. God sees the fragrance of Christ in our lives— even our prayers are as fragrance (Rev. 5:8; 8:5).

 14...God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His
 - knowledge in every place. ¹⁵For we are to God the fragrance of Christ... (2 Cor. 2:14-15)
- D. Our praise, prayers, and words are sweet to God (Ps. 19:14; Prov. 15:8; Song 2:14; Mal 3:16).

 ¹Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. (Ps. 33:1)
 - ¹⁴Let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for <u>your voice is sweet</u>, and your face is lovely. (Song 2:14)
- E. God remembers and rewards our attitudes, words, and deeds, including giving our time and money. The fact that our beautiful God esteems and rewards them assures us that they beautify our lives.
 - ⁴²Whoever gives one of these...<u>only</u> a cup of cold water...he shall by no means lose <u>his reward</u>. (Mt. 10:42)
 - ¹⁶Those who feared the Lord <u>spoke to one another</u>...so a book of <u>remembrance</u> was written before Him...¹⁷"They shall be Mine...on the day that I make them My jewels." (Mal. 3:16-17)
 - ³Those who are <u>wise</u> shall shine...those who <u>turn many to righteousness</u> like the stars forever... (Dan. 12:3)
 - ⁴³Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Mt. 13:44)
- F. A diamond is formed by heat and pressure working to cause carbon to become a precious stone. A "diamond in the rough" is transformed by being cut in a precise way so its beauty shines forth.
 - ²...And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a <u>refiner's fire</u>...³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify...[His people] as gold and silver... (Mal 3:2-4)
 - ¹²Now if anyone builds on this foundation [Jesus and the cross] with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each one's work will become clear...it will be revealed by fire...¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. (1 Cor. 3:12-14)