

### **The Disappointments of Life, and the Life that will not Disappoint**

As I am sure many others do, I spend a good deal of every year looking forward to summer, and a good deal of every summer wondering why. The heat gets to me. It is unpleasant. And it wreaks havoc on my desire to do anything other than lie around doing nothing, which is not good for me, apart from the fact that some things need doing, and some of them need to be my done by me.

Holy Scripture knows of the devastating effect summer heat can have upon a person; it refers to it in describing the devastating effect of being aware of one's wrongdoings while refusing to admit to them as wrongdoing before God and seeking His forgiveness for them: "As long as I kept silent, my bones wasted away ... my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer."

Realities never quite measure up to our expectations, do they? Somehow we almost always find ourselves disappointed, at least a little bit - not necessarily enough to make us unhappy, but nevertheless. Perhaps we forget about some aspect of that which we were looking forward to, such as just how hot it gets in the summertime; perhaps that which we were looking forward to is exactly as we expected it to be, and as we remembered it from before, but we find ourselves not enjoying it quite as much as we thought we would, or quite as much as we have in the past. Whatever.

All things good in life are reflections and reminders of the goodness of God - those that really are good, that is - given to us to call us back to His goodness. They are but pale reflections, though, as we have lost sight of the goodness of God, having turned away from His goodness to seek goodness on our own instead. Fleeting they are, also, and shall be taken away from us and give way to utter and complete devastation of which the worst heat of summer is but a pale reflection.

What God promises to those who believe in Him and belong to Him is the full glory of His goodness. And the glory of His goodness we have begun to see in what He has done for our salvation, that the Son of God, who is Himself God from eternity, would make Himself one with our sin and bear Himself His own judgement against it, the fullness of death and devastation, the holy and wholehearted hatred of His goodness against all evil and impurity and ungodliness.

Although we cannot begin to imagine the glory that awaits us, we know the goodness of God. And so we also know that the fulfilment of His promises will not disappoint us, but must exceed all that we could ever expect or imagine.

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