

## **Shadows of the Heavenly in our Earthly Things: Romans 1:20-25**

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### **I. See life as full of shadows of heavenly realities**

- A. Old Covenant-->New Covenant Gospel Hebrews 8:5; 10:1; 12:22-24
- B. Created things are shadows of God's eternal power and divine nature Romans 1:20
- C. Earthly marriage is shadow of heavenly relationship btw Christ & church Ezekial 16; Ephesians 5:23-33
- D. Earthly family is a shadow of God the Father & God the Son, with Christians as adopted children in his family Galatians 4:4-7
- D. Cautions: shadow does not mean that our world is an illusion or suffering is not real, but that earthly "stuff" is preparatory of something morally & permanently better

### **II. Repent of your worship of earthly shadows**

- A. Both true & distorted shadows (true=Hebrews 10:1; distorted=Rom 1:25-28; Acts 17:24-31)
- B. What is shadow worship? = using something for my purposes rather than God's, not seeing God reflected in it, not using according to commands, contra Rom 11:36, = believing in, loving, or hoping in the earthly shadow (1 Sam 4:3-11 *power of ark of covenant worshiped*; 2 Kings 18:4 *power of the bronze serpent worshiped*; Acts 8:18-24 *Simon offers money for power of Holy Spirit*; 1 Tim 6:17-19 *hope in money rather than God the source of money*)
- C. Tests for discerning shadow worship

### **III. Enjoy true earthly shadows as temporary gifts leading you to know God and the eternal heavenly realities**

- A. Family, marriage, sexuality, money, food
- B. C.S. Lewis *Weight of Glory*
- C. *Glorify God and give him thanks* Rom 1:21; 1 Tim 4:3-5

### **IV. Witness in the world by reforming distorted earthly shadows**

- A. Levels of reform (in order): individual, family, church, society
- B. Family, marriage, sexuality, care for weak, money

### **V. Endure suffering in hope that the shadows of good things will actually come**

(Hebrews 10:1; 6:10-12; 11:13-16; 12:1-13; 1 Peter; 2 Corinthians)