

## WEEK 2

TO READ IN THE BOOK: CHAPTER 3, A TOTAL DISASTER

### BIBLE STUDY: TRADING GLORY FOR SOMETHING ELSE

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Romans 1:21-22

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and *exchanged the glory of the immortal God* for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

How have you “exchanged the glory of God” for something else?

Romans 1:24-25

<sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup>They *exchanged the truth of God* for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator.

What is the “truth of God” that Paul is talking about here? What does it mean to exchange the “truth of God” for a lie?

In what way have you exchanged the truth of God for a lie?

What is one created thing that you worship?

## BIG IDEAS SO FAR

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You were not designed/built/created to live only for yourself. You have been hardwired to *want* to be part of something bigger—something bigger than your own survival and your own happiness. This desire that is hardwired into you is the desire for **transcendence**.

God invites you to be part of something so huge, so significant, that the only word that can adequately describe it is **glory**.

Your desire for transcendence is a desire for glory, and it is a good desire.

When God designed the human heart, God built it to be more attached to the Creator than to the creation.

The Evil One is continually presenting us with less in a way that makes it appear to be more.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHAPTER 3

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As a result of the Total Disaster (the Fall), there is a powerful pressure to shrink the transcendent promises, glories, and hopes of the gospel to the size of our own lives.

As a result of the Total Disaster, your innate desire to transcend (that is, to spill your life for something great—rather than something good) has been crushed. Your *desire* has been crushed (though not extinguished).

As a result of the Total Disaster, sitting in God's presence no longer feels like sheer delight.

As a result of the Total Disaster, we no longer live with “restoration of all things” in view—instead we focus primarily on restoration of ourselves. This is not a bad thing, but it is quite incomplete.

To hide from your Creator is to hide from your true identity.

Sin is a bigger problem than we think.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHILE READING

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Who would you say benefits the most from your salvation—you or others?

What was the lie Satan told Adam and Eve?

In what sense is hiding from God “hiding from your true identity”?

What really drives our tendency to “settle” for a good life rather than a great life? No one really wants to settle, so why do we?

Have you ever “hidden” yourself or some parts of yourself from God? Are you now?

How is “having it good” (rather than great) perhaps preventing you from seeking God’s dreams for you?

As you look back on your growing up years, can you remember a time in which your innate desire to transcend was crushed?

What is the vision for your group? Does it fit a vision of transcendence or is it limited to the needs and desires of the group?