

TODAY'S BIBLE READING  
ROMANS 8:18–25

RECOMMENDED READING  
1 THESSALONIANS 4:13–18; REVELATION 20:11–21:8

## GLORY

It may be possible for each to think too much of his own potential glory hereafter; it is hardly possible for him to think too often or too deeply about that of his neighbour. The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbour's glory should be laid on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken.

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations.

It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilisations—these are mortal . . . But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendours.

This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously—no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption. And our charity must be a real and costly love, with deep feeling for the sins in spite of which we love the sinner—no mere tolerance, or indulgence which parodies love as flippancy parodies merriment.

—C. S. Lewis

### TO TAKE AWAY

:: HOW DOES THIS SCRIPTURE PASSAGE CHANGE THE WAY YOU VIEW YOUR NEIGHBORS?

:: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR US TO TAKE PEOPLE AND LIFE SERIOUSLY?

:: IN WHAT PRACTICAL WAYS CAN YOU LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF?