

### Satisfying Glory

#### read

*Jeremiah 2:11-13*

#### think

Scottish theologians disciplined the next generation by asking a fundamental question, “What is the chief end of man?” Answer, “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

The first part echoes the familiar verse that we do all things for God’s glory (1 Cor. 10:31). The “AND” is surprising: The chief end (singular) is to glorify God AND enjoy him.

Jeremiah describes a scene that horrifies the heavenly realm. When offered a fresh & flowing fountain, humanity foolishly prefers a stale & stagnant tank. It’s sickeningly similar to seeing someone sip toilet water.

Evil is described not as being thirsty but as seeking satisfaction from creation instead of the Creator (Rom. 1:21-25). CS Lewis says, “We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by an offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

The biblical call to worship God is an invitation for us to satisfy our souls with a superior source of joy. God is not forbidding our joy; he knows that cisterns will disappoint and destroy our souls. So he beckons us taste and see that he is good (Ps. 34:8). And this preference for and pleasure in God glorifies him above all other pursuits.

#### apply

- Why should we desire a fountain more than a broken cistern?
- How does this passage provide a deeper and darker definition of sin?
- What kinds of “cisterns” do people run to when they are thirsty?
- What is the relationship between worship and joy?

#### pray

Father, in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Forgive me for finding more joy in your things than your face. Open the eyes of my heart to see the surpassing pleasure of loving and obeying Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### by Brandon Fisher

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