

SERMON NOTES:



07th June, 2026

Part 6 - For the Life of the World
WONDER

Pastor Mick Spann

Key Verse: Psalm 19:1 - "The heavens declare the glory of God."

1. Creation Invites Us to Wonder

- Creation is not random or meaningless. It points beyond itself to its Creator.
- Awe and wonder are gifts God has built into humanity.
- Creation is not the object of worship; it is an invitation to worship.

2. God Meets Us in the Small and Ordinary

- We often expect God in extraordinary moments.
- But most of life is lived in ordinary, everyday circumstances.
- God is present in (and should be recognised in):
 - daily routines, family life, work, quiet moments and even seasons of uncertainty

3. The Temptation of Certainty

- Faith is not control; faith is trust.
- Consider Israel in the Wilderness. They were saved by God, guided by His presence and give direction, but not a detailed roadmap... There were a lot of unknowns! They longed for certainty and control. The golden calf incident appears to be coming from this need for control.
- We to fall into the trap of reducing God to something manageable. We tend to like concrete statements, formulas and certainty because mystery and nuance are uncomfortable.

4. Jesus Reveals the Invisible God

- If we want to know what God is like, we simply need to look at Jesus.
- Colossians 1:15 "Christ is the image of the invisible God."
- God is beyond our understanding.
- Yet God has made Himself known through Jesus.
- In Christ we see God's character, heart, and purpose

EVEN SO...

5. While we can know God Truly, we cannot yet know Him Completely

- 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 (We know in part. We see as through a dim mirror. But one day we will see face to face.
- Christianity does not eliminate mystery. Mature faith accepts its limits by not expecting to know everything or nail down clear answers to everything. Faith trusts simply in the God who DOES know fully.

6. God often meets His people on the road, not merely at the destination.

Jacob's Story (Genesis 28-32)

- God appeared while Jacob rested. Jacob's response:
 - “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”

7. Beholding Is a Spiritual Practice - Attention can become an act of worship.

Evelyn Underhill: “For lack of attention a thousand forms of loveliness elude us every day.”

- Beholding Means: slowing down, paying attention, noticing beauty and responding.

8. Beholding in Wonder can take many forms (here are just 3)

Noticing the glory of God through: Experiencing Nature, Science/Investigation, Meditation on Scripture.

Wonder grows wherever we slow down enough to pay attention.

Final Challenge

- This week, take a ‘walk’ (be that through nature, science or scripture)
- As you walk: Slow down, be open to noticing things you otherwise wouldn’t, pay attention, Worship... and remember:

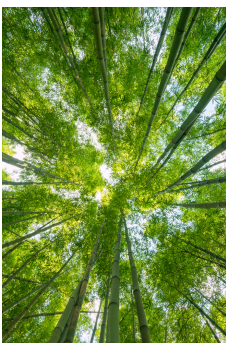
We do not need to understand everything to adore the One who holds everything.

Sometimes the most faithful response is simply:

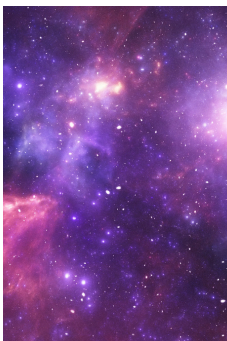
“Wow.”

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A “Wonder Activity”, Video and Article you might enjoy:



Activity -
Praying With Creation



VIDEO
Christ in All Things
(Galaxies Included)



Article -
Created for Awe
and Wonder



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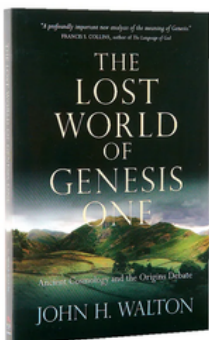
Resources that Mick found helpful for mornings message:



All Shall
Be Well



Seminary Level Online Class
Heaven and Earth - Design Patterns



The Lost World of
Genesis One



Wonder Transforms Us

SMALL GROUP OUTLINE

CONNECT – *help people get comfortable*

How do you typically respond to artistic expression and creative works of art? To what style of art are you most often attracted?

REVIEW

Watch Episode #6: Wonder



Read the key idea, verse, and passage. What insights did you take away from this week's scripture and message?

Key Idea Living in awe of God's beauty transforms us.

Key Verse *Romans 5:8*

Key Passages *Psalms 65*

DISCUSS – talk through the content to gain understanding

- What beauty is shown in the boy's adventure in the video?
- How can self-centeredness blind us to the mysterious wonder and awe of God?
- Give examples of how a church, a person or a family can become overly focused on fulfilling their own desires.
- What resonates with you about doing something "totally useless"? What about it might be uncomfortable?
- How often do you spend time doing something that isn't necessarily productive?

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- What are things you do, or places you go, to stop, pay attention and appreciate beauty?
- What is a place or time that you felt a great sense of awe?
- In what ways do you experience wonder and awe at God's mercy towards you during regular worship services?
- Have you experienced a time when you were overwhelmed by God's mercy and spontaneously prayed or worshipped in the moment?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE – taking time to listen to God and respond

Read: Look over Philippians 2:1-11 slowly.

Journal:

- Focus on some words that stand out to you from these verses, and make two columns to write them in. In one column, write the words that rob you of awe and wonder. In the other column, write the words that inspire you with a sense of awe and wonder.
- Based on these verses, write three goals that reflect your desire to live with a greater experience of wonder and awe.

Group Debrief:

- What do you sense Jesus is inviting you to discover about him?
- When you consider all you do, what would you have to let go of to spend time simply enjoying the wonder and beauty of God?

CHALLENGE – *live it out in the coming week*

Begin each day by reading Philippians 2:1-11. Ask God to empower you to put Jesus' words into practice transforming your attitudes and actions. Each evening, reflect on the ways you saw your attitudes and actions transformed. What did you notice that you want to put into practice tomorrow? Ask God for a heart of humility.

PRAY – share requests with one another

Share current joys, hopes, or challenges. Pray for one another.