

# New Geneva

## THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



3622 Galley Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-4316  
(719) 573-5395 • [www.newgeneva.org](http://www.newgeneva.org)

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### The Incomparable Goodness and Excellence of Christ

Christ, as he is beautiful and good, so he is incomparably, beyond all comparison good: "He is a standard bearer, one among ten thousand; anointed with the oil of gladness above his fellows." (Ps. 45:7)

*What is excellent in the heavens? The sun. So Christ is the 'Sun of righteousness,' Mal. 4:2. The stars. He is the 'bright morning star' (Rev. 22:16). The light. He is the 'light of the world' (John 9:5). Come to all creatures; you have not any excellent amongst them but Christ is styled from it. He is 'the lion of the tribe of Judah,' (Rev. 5:5), the 'lily,' (Songs 2:1), and the 'rose,' (Songs 2:1), and 'the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world' (John 1:29), 'the tree of Life,' etc., (Rev. 22:2).*

*There is not a thing necessary to nature, but you have a style from it given to Christ, to show that he is as necessary as bread and water, and the food of life (John 6:35; John 4:14). When we see light, therefore, think of the 'true light' (John 9:5). When you see the sun, think of the 'Sun of righteousness' (Mal. 4:2). So remember 'the bread and water of life,' in our common food. Therefore the sacraments were ordained, that as we go to the sea by the conduct of rivers, so we might go to the sea of all excellency and goodness by the conduct of these rivers of goodness, to be led by every excellency in the creature, to that of our mediator Christ, who is 'the chiefest among ten thousand' (Songs 5:10). ~Richard Sibbes (excerpt edited slightly for readability)*



### What Do We Expect of Our Pastors?

Today's pastor is expected to be humble like Moses, bold like Stephen, preach like Peter, teach like Paul, evangelize like Philip, administrate like Timothy, be meek like Andrew, have the vision of John, suffer like Jeremiah, have the joy of Mary, battle like Elijah, be merciful like Elisha, lead like Joshua, follow like Matthew, encourage like Barnabas, sing like David, shepherd like Amos, and bear a cross like Jesus. But what is your pastor? Remember, he's just a man, called of God. He needs your prayers. ~Dr. John Barber

### Dr. Aquila to Teach in Our Egypt Extension in April

Dr. Dominic Aquila will be teaching at New Geneva's extension in Egypt April 12-23. He will be joined by three other instructors who be teaching other courses for the 60 students enrolled. We will be using the conference center run by the Presbyterian Church of Egypt. Pray for fruitful teaching, safety and good health.

### Special Fund to Paint and Repair Building Exterior

It has been about twelve years since the exterior of the seminary's building was painted; it is time for a fresh coat of paint and some other repairs. The seminary Board has approved raising funds to cover the cost of this project, which is estimated to be around \$15,000. We are asking our faithful supporters for a special one-time gift to cover the cost of this important project. To support this project, send your one-time gift to New Geneva and indicate it is for the "Paint Project."

### Your Gifts Are Appreciated

Thank you for your regular support to help us provide the highest quality Christ-centered education for our students. Because of the generosity of individuals like you, you are making a difference in the lives of students as they prepare to serve in vocational ministry and church leadership here and around the world. Contact us for more information at 719-573-5395.

### Beware the Devil Disguised as an Angel of Light

When the devil comes to try to take my soul, to lead me away from Christ and into the mire of sin, do you think he's going to come dressed up in a KKK robe and hood? Do you think he's going to be wearing a Nazi SS uniform? Do you think he's going to be preaching racism and bigotry? No. The devil is evil, but he's the opposite of stupid. When he comes to try to take my soul, he's going to make sure to look like me and sound like me; he's going to be saying things I want to hear. He's too smart to present himself in a way that's going to repel me; he's going to present himself in a way that's going to attract me. He's my worst enemy--worse than any Klansman or Nazi--but he's going to try to convince me he's my best friend. He does that to everyone--no matter whether you are black or white, male or female, young or old. That's why he's so dangerous, and why he's so often successful."

~Rev. Eugene F. Rivers III of the Church of God in Christ

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* (Ephesians 6:10-12)

## Resurrection Glory

In 1 Corinthians 15, the apostle Paul anticipates being asked the following question: “With what kind of body do [resurrected people] come?” He goes on to provide a series of descriptions that paint a glorious picture of what our bodies will be like in the resurrection. In verse 43 he says that our existing body will be “sown in dishonor” but that it will be “raised in glory.”

The contrast in itself is intriguing. He could have said, “It is sown worthless; it is raised of great worth.” But what he actually claims goes beyond that. Our existing bodies will be sown worthless—even shamefully cheap, but they will be raised *glorious*.

Unlike us, Paul doesn’t use that word “glory” lightly. We talk about glorious sunsets and glorious pieces of music. When Paul talks about glory, he’s not talking in earthly terms at all. He’s talking about something beyond this world. He’s saying that in our resurrection bodies we will quite literally radiate and reflect the glory of God.

This is something hard to fathom for our finite brains. But there are a couple of helpful parallels in biblical history.

There’s Moses, who spent forty days up on a high mountain with God, receiving the ten commandments and the Levitical covenant. The Bible says that when he came down, his face was shining. You might say that some of that divine glory had “rubbed off,” as though Moses’ skin was some kind of human phosphorus that absorbed and reflected back God’s glory.

But that was temporary. Moses was still living in a mortal body, and although that glory was initially too radiant for the people to look upon, it eventually faded, and Moses’ face returned to its normal state.

Jesus’ transfiguration gives us a better glimpse of glory in human form. Matthew describes that glory:

And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. Matthew 17:2 ESV

As Peter, James and John went up on the mountain with Jesus, they saw him suddenly radiant, so bright that they could hardly look on him. For a moment it was as though the vail of flesh were removed and they could see who he really was.

But even with the transfiguration, the glory once again faded. Because Jesus was not yet in his resurrected, glorified body, the transfiguration was just a foretaste of things to come.

What Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 15 is something even better than transfiguration. It’s a state of glory that isn’t temporary. It’s more than just some kind of earthly glow. The best way to define glory in a human body is simply that the human person becomes a kind of reflective mirror by which people can see the glory of God.

Think about it: Isn’t that what makes people truly beautiful here on earth? You and I are most beautiful when people can see Jesus in us, when



they can see the love of God reflected in our lives, when they can behold the authentic joy that comes from knowing Christ. Our greatest glory isn’t some kind of temporary glow. It doesn’t consist in being the perfect specimen of some standard

of earthly glamour. When Jesus Christ reflects glimpses of himself in our earthly lives, we show the beauty that God had in mind when he created us.

That’s how Jesus’ resurrected body was. I believe people initially had difficulty recognizing him not just because he had become the perfect version of himself, but because he reflected the glory of God in a newer, more perfect way.

One day we will also perfectly reflect the glory seen in Christ’s resurrection. Paul writes in verse 45 that “Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.” 1 Cor. 15:49 ESV. But first we must be changed. This corruptible body first has to die and be planted in the ground.

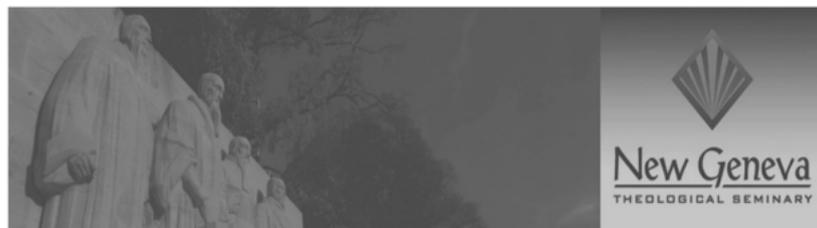
But what about in the meantime? Scripture tells us that God, by his Spirit, has already implanted his glory into believers:

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Cor. 3:18 ESV

While we await the glorious day of our resurrection, Easter reminds us that as we walk by faith, we reflect God’s glory in the here-and-now.

Dr. Mark House

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