

Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

April 9, 2019

I'm pretty sure that you're familiar with the concept of a "bucket list," whether you have one or not. My own list is pretty short. One of the things I really would like to do is to become sufficiently skilled at the game of golf not to humiliate myself.

In that vein, this weekend is the Master's Tournament in Augusta, Georgia. I've never been to the Master's, but I've been to Augusta many, many times while courting a pretty young nursing student at the Medical College of Georgia.



So here are a few questions:

Who won the Master's Tournament last year? (Patrick Reed)
Who won it in 2017? 2016?

Who won the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament last night? (Virginia)
Who won it last year? In 2017?

Who won the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament on Sunday night? (Baylor)
Who won it last year? In 2017?

Who won the Super Bowl this year? (Patriots)
Who won it last year? In 2017?

Who won the World Series last year? (Red Sox)
Who won it in 2017? In 2016?

My guess is that unless you're a real sports fan, you didn't know who all the current champions are; and unless you're a sports fanatic, you knew very few of the previous winners. If I had asked you to name the champions from five years ago, I'll bet none of us would know without *Google*.



You will not be surprised that such musings cause me to think of Scripture. Paul wrote, "*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. **They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever***" (1 Corinthians 9:24-25).

When speaking to church leaders, Peter wrote, "*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive **the crown of glory that will never fade away***" (1 Peter 5:2-4).

In the Revelation, Jesus told the churches to "*Be faithful, even to the point of death, and **I will give you life as your victor's crown***" (Revelation 2:10).

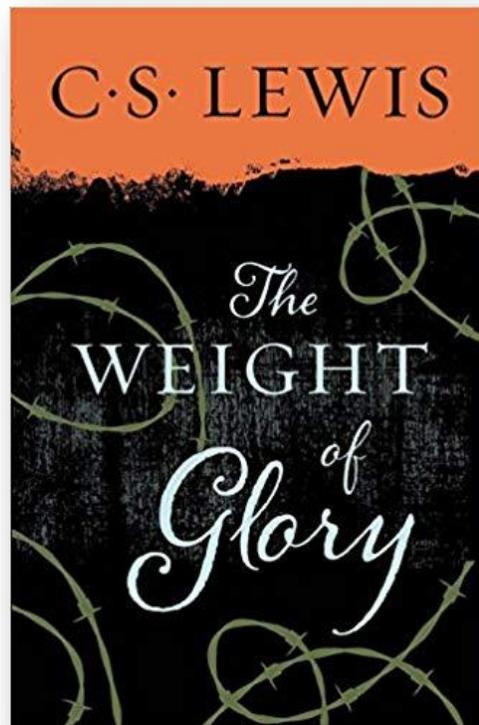
C. S. Lewis put it well when he wrote, "In the end that Face which is the delight or the terror of the universe must be turned upon each of us either with one expression or with the

other, either conferring glory inexpressible or inflicting shame that can never be cured or disguised.

“I read in a periodical the other day that the fundamental thing is how we think of God. By God Himself, it is not! How God thinks of us is not only more important, but infinitely more important. Indeed, how we think of Him is of no importance except insofar as it is related to how He thinks of us.

“It is written that we shall ‘stand before’ Him, shall appear, shall be inspected. The promise of glory is the promise, almost incredible and only possible by the work of Christ, that some of us, that any of us who really chooses, shall actually survive that examination, shall find approval, shall please God.

“To please God . . . to be a real ingredient in the divine happiness . . . to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a son—it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is.”¹



¹ Lewis, C. S., *The Weight of Glory: Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis* (HarperCollins: Kindle Edition), pp. 39-40.