LIVING

THE CROSS SHAPED

LIFE

Freedom Through Surrender:

Eternity

2 Cor 4:16-18

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Roadmap:
Living the Cross Shaped Life

Position and Practice	Freedom through Surrender
“In Christ” Saints Children of God Justified, Righteous, Forgiven Royal Priesthood Citizens of heaven Died and Raised with Christ Dead to Sin	Crucified Life God’s Glory Forgiveness Eternity Suffering Fruit of the Spirit Poured out Life Resurrection Power

“The Man with the Muck-Rake”

Pilgrims Progress
John Bunyan
1891



Taken from Pilgrims Progress
Image Attribution: Harold Copping, The Man with the Muck-Rake (1903), public domain.

“… when earthly things hold power over men’s minds, they completely carry their hearts away from God”

Pilgrims Progress
John Bunyan
1891



Taken from Pilgrims Progress
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Lessons from the Muck-Rake:

- Come to terms with the brevity of life, but don't be pessimistic.
- Adopt a "day by day" approach to spiritual growth & maturity.
- "only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last" C.T. Studd
- How can I improve my spiritual fitness?



Adapted from Pilgrims Progress, not historical artwork
AI adaptation after Harold Copping, The Man with the Muck-Rake (1903), public domain



"Balance scale comparing affliction and eternal weight of glory" image. Gemini, Google, 14 Nov. 2026, gemini.google.com/.



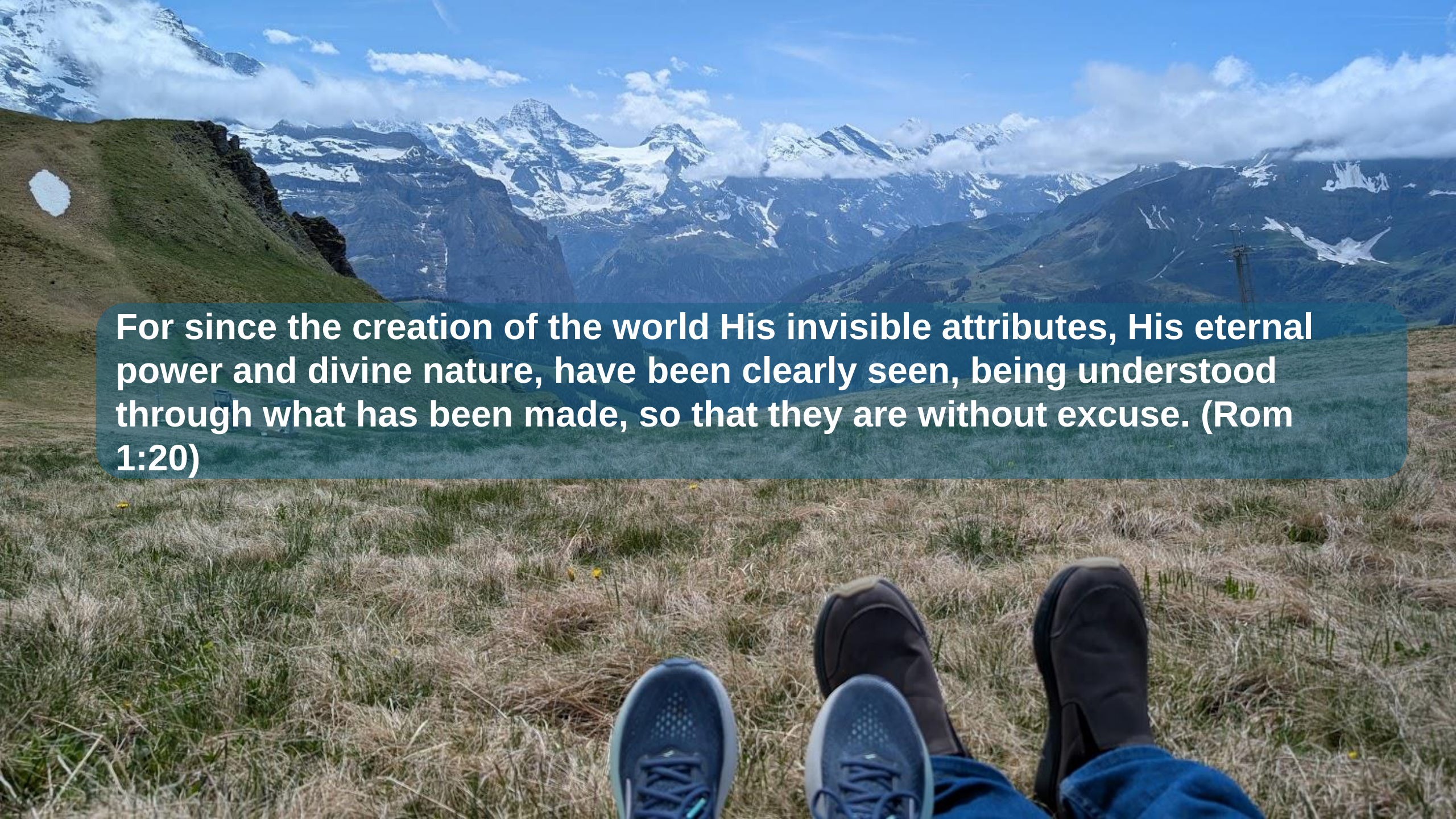


https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grand_Canyon_South_Rim_at_Sunset.jpg








For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Rom 1:20)

Lessons from the Muck-Rake:

- Agree with Paul's comparison. Align your heart to it.
- Compare the <u>duration</u> of your present difficulty to your current years.
- Compare the <u>difficulty</u> of your current situation to previous. Remember God sustains.
- Don't believe "this is all there is". Tears last for a night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning. Prov 30:5



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Lessons from the Muck-Rake:

- Agree with the limitation of the seen: it’s temporal.
- If frustrated or agitated, ask “where is my hope/trust?”
- Defer to the only one who can say: “it is done”.
- Don’t underestimate the eternal.



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Look Up…

- When the body is weakening. *God is renewing the inner man.*
- Affliction feels heavy. *Glory outweighs it.*
- When the visible world feels ultimate. *The unseen is eternal.*



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