




BEHOLDING

GLOORY

BLIND AND DEAF

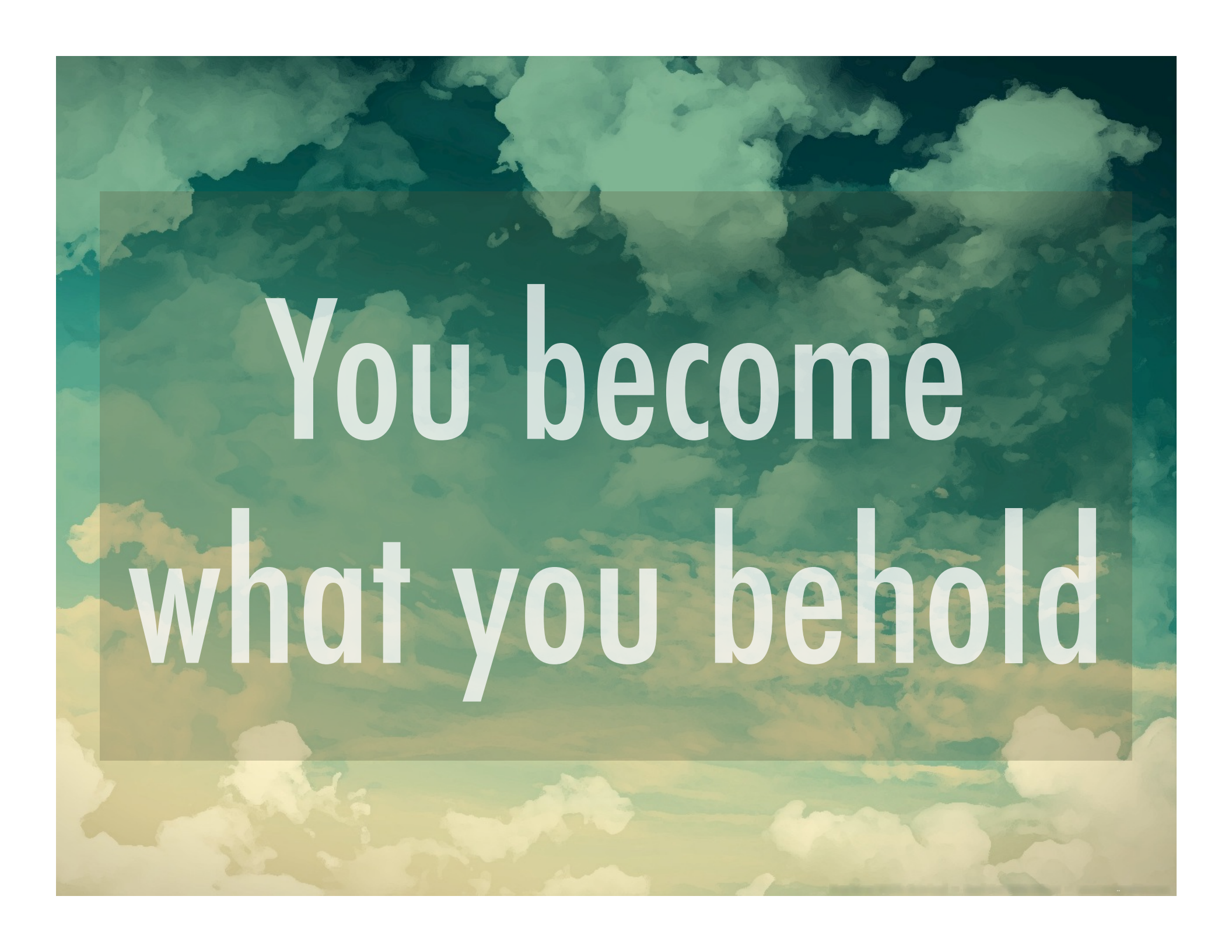
- Isaiah 43:8 – God’s people were in a mess spiritually because of their inability to hear and see. Spiritual malaise and ignorance is bad enough, but Israel was supposed to be God’s witness to the world (43:9-13). They failed to represent Him because they couldn’t see His glory (or the glory in which they were meant to share).
- Isaiah 42:18ff – God’s “servant” could neither hear nor see. This is quite the sad commentary and should be “eye-opening” for us!



How did they
get this way?

THE WORK OF MAN'S HANDS

- Notice Jeremiah 10:1-5 and the shocking correspondence between idols and the people who worship them. If our hearts are devoted to gods who cannot speak, then our hearts become dumb. If we trust a god who cannot see, then we also do not see plain truths right in front of us.
- Psalm 115:1-8 illustrates the point that God is not like the gods of men, who are limited and lifeless. Everyone who trusts them “will become like them.”



You become
what you behold

ANSWERS THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS

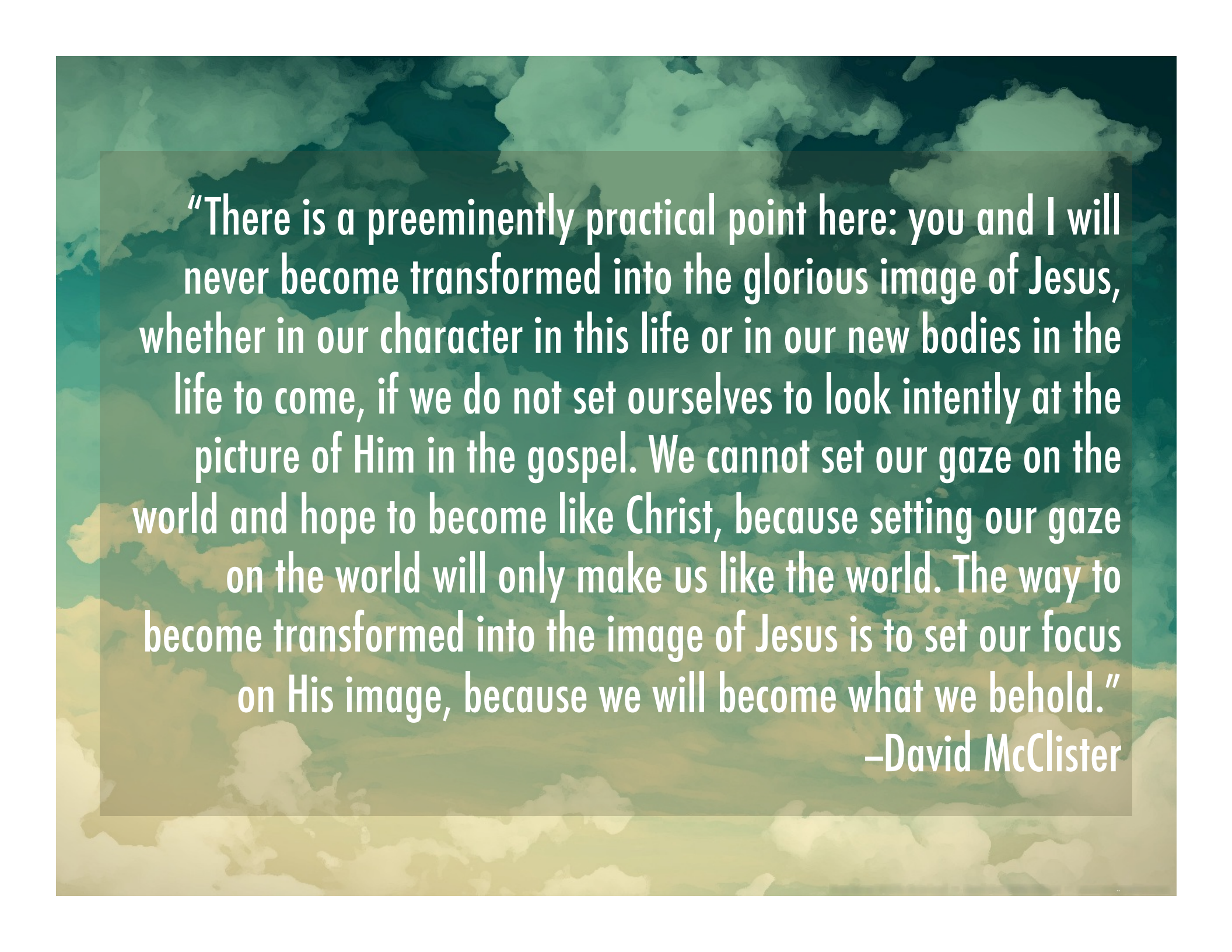


- One of the ways we become like what we worship is in how we ask/answer questions.
- To the one whose mind has been warped and weakened by a lack of Truth, even the simplest questions seem like puzzles. Notice this trend in Malachi, in which God's people have no meaningful answers for their disobedience.

- If you only behold insubstantial, fleeting entertainment, you will likely become a person with little substance.
- If you behold anger, you become angry (Proverbs 22:24-25).
- If you behold evil, your good morals are corrupted (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- If you behold hypocrisy and do nothing about it, you become one of the hypocrites (Romans 2:1-5).
- If you behold your own sense of religious accomplishment, you become like one who forgets his own face in the mirror (James 1:19ff, Matthew 6:1).
- If you behold your brother in need and do nothing, you become alienated from God (1 John 2:16-17, 4:20).

"WE BEHELD HIS GLORY"

- The good news is that it works the other way too. We become like the good things we behold – the only warning is that we should be careful not to settle for cheap knockoffs that are less-than-glorious (“Hallmark movie” religion, family, charity, morality, etc.).
- Behold the glory of Christ (John 1:14, 1 John 1:1-5)! In the story of the gospel we can behold the love, mercy, and moral fortitude of the Son of God. He is the greatest example, the highest calling, and we are transformed when we keep Him always in our minds (2 Corinthians 3:18).



“There is a preeminently practical point here: you and I will never become transformed into the glorious image of Jesus, whether in our character in this life or in our new bodies in the life to come, if we do not set ourselves to look intently at the picture of Him in the gospel. We cannot set our gaze on the world and hope to become like Christ, because setting our gaze on the world will only make us like the world. The way to become transformed into the image of Jesus is to set our focus on His image, because we will become what we behold.”

—David McClister