

# Our Place at His Place

*Shuteye 2.0*

May 17, 2020

**Welcome to where we're learning to fix our eyes ... on the unseen!**

For seven years I have not repeated my most requested sermon: Shuteye. Well, I've had seven years to ponder it. And so I ask: **If the Lord allowed everyone, ever born, everywhere, every day, to understand Him, His invisible qualities, eternal power, and divine nature, what would that be like?!** Well, He has. And, **everyone knows it. They just don't know they know it.** This is Shuteye 2.0.



Know what a circuit board capacitor does? Technically, it's a passive, two-terminal, electrical component that stores energy in an electrostatic field, so when there's an electrical potential difference across the conductors of a circuit, a static electric field develops across the capacitor's dielectric, causing positive and negative charges to collect on separate plates.



You now fully understand ... the worst way to teach: **comparing the unknown with the unfamiliar.** The best way? Jesus' way: *com'parables*: **comparing the unknown to the familiar.** Watch this: **a capacitor is like ... a toilet.** Electricity flows in, like a stream of water, and fills it. And it's stored there, so that when need be, a great amount can gush out all at once.



Now, the Spirit is also like this: **truth and life from God's Word flows into our inmost being, little by little, where it's stored up, so that rivers of living water can gush out to flush out our sin.** This isn't *what*, but it's certainly *how*, Jesus taught! Brilliantly linking eternal truth to our temporary world, **so that we can comprehend it conceptually**, even though not actually or fully.



You get that a capacitor works like a toilet; but, you still don't know *how* it does what it does. But don't feel bad, even those who discovered it don't fully comprehend it. **They may have discovered it; but, they didn't create it ... from nothing.** In fact, **everything in creation was created to help us see the un-seeable aspects of our Creator.**

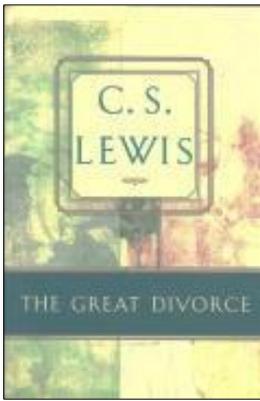


For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. – Romans 1:20 NIV

**But, we're warned that we're given a dim reflection as a copy of the true.** (1 Cor 13:12; Heb 9:24)

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, [in our dim'porary world (that's a big mistake we all make)] but on what is unseen [that which everything was created to be like]. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. – 2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV

We've been given a com'parable lesser reality to allow and enable us to conceptually comprehend the greater and truer that awaits.



In C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*, ghostly tourists take a bus to Heaven to decide if they want to live there. But, everything in Heaven is so ... *solid*, that they can't even pluck a flower or pick up a leaf. Grass blades are hard and sharp. **These tourists (who don't realize they're dead) thought of their world as the "real" one**, the one with substance, while assuming heaven to be a less substantial spirit world. They had it backwards. Heaven is a place of substance; **earth the land of shadows, illusions, and pretensions**. Heaven is reality itself. And, to fit into Heaven they must become not *less solid*, but *more*. Which means **they must admit to themselves that they are merely shallow shadows** that *must* become deeper and weightier. And those who refuse to open their eyes to this truth, find that Heaven has no appeal.



It's an insightful analogy for one of mankind's biggest problems: **we see our temporary world as a greater reality than our eternal home**. We depict Heaven with mist and clouds and translucent beings – all the things that seem less real down here. **We think of our own flesh and bones as being rock solid, and we picture God's Spirit as a Holy Ghost**. Jesus' disciples made this mistake after His death, when He appeared behind shut and locked doors, where they were hiding. (John 20:19, 26)



They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "... Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." – Luke 24:37-39 NIV



That's part of what's freaking them out; they can *see* His *bones*. He even has them reach in His side and touch 'em! *His* flesh and bones are not like *their* flesh and bones. His are real. Theirs are still inferior copies. They assumed, *because* He could get past a "real solid" door, He must be something *less real*. That's backward. **He didn't get in by being lesser, but greater. They did see a ghost, but it wasn't Jesus – it was the door!** If we want our faith and life to function as intended, **we got'a get our eyes off the dim'porary** and submit to the humbling truth: **ours is the lesser reality**.



Surely every man walks about as a phantom; – Psalm 39:6 NAS



Have you seen *The Matrix*? It's about a programmer who realizes **he's merely an image of his real self**, living inside a simulation; and **he must choose to awake and escape to Zion**. Our reality is kind of like that. We're told that **Jesus was the image of the invisible God**. (Col 1:15) Have you seen *The 6th Sense*? It's about a psychiatrist who tries to help a boy who sees ghosts who don't know they're dead; only to discover, in the end – spoiler alert – he's a ghost. Our reality is kind of like that.



Why do you think these movies struck such a universal chord? Perhaps, deep down we all know the fundamental, *monumental*, pride-blinded truth: ***I'm a phantom that needs to wake up!***

From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name. – Isaiah 49:1 NKJ

The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. – Romans 13:11-12 NIV

## Jesus came, not only to claim to be the greatest, truest, reality, but our only escape.

I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved ... I came that they may have life, – John 10:9-10 NAS



**But, if we don't have life pre-Jesus, what do we have? Something much less.** Jesus' brother James asks:

What is your life? **[Well]** You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. – James 4:14 NIV



Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow. – Psalm 144:4 NIV

For my days vanish like smoke; – Psalm 102:3 NIV



There were *two* trees in the Garden. They ate from the tree of knowledge. **They were banned from the tree of ... what? Life!** (Gen 3:22-24) And, **Jesus died so that we might have ... what? Life!** And He rose to confirm *His greater* reality and expose *our lesser*. But, **pride will hide this humbling truth**, because it reveals how **hopelessly helpless**, and **desperately dependent**, we really are, down here.

So, until we choose to fix our eyes on the truly eternal, we wander on, **only seeing our own self-serving sense of reality**. But, **our Father-Creator designed the ultimate com'parable**, to empower *everyone, ever born, everywhere, every day*, to understand His invisible qualities, eternal power, and divine nature. If they so choose.



**We just have to ... shut our eyes, for a little ... shuteye.** Each night when, ironically, we shut our eyes to find rest and relief from this world, **we suddenly see an even lesser reality than our own**, that in the moment, we emphatically believe to be *real*; only to learn the same insightful lesson, every morning: *"It was a dream!"* When we fall to sleep, deep in our subconscious, **our separate-self fills the void with light and color and living beings!** *Everything* is formed from nothing, by the power of an omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent, *resting creator* existing in another, greater, reality: *You*.



Sometimes you fly. Because, **It's easy to command the laws of physics in a lesser reality of your own creation.** Walking on water wasn't a big deal for Jesus. The big deal, that they all missed, was that **He made the water ... out of thin air! After making thin air!**

Now, there's no satisfaction in detached, dispassionate, observation. So, **subconscious you (while sustaining your creation), sends an image of resting you – begotten, not made – into your created world**, to interact with it. **Three distinct selves.** Operating independently. Yet, when you roll out of bed, you're just *one*. *Hmm, I'm three in one.* *Yawn.* Ever had a lucid dream, where you become aware that you and the resting creator are one and the same; and **your resting self is expressing itself through you** in your created reality?

[Jesus said] I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. – John 14:6 NKJ

[And] On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. – John 14:20 NIV



Ever realize you're in a nightmare and cry out to yourself to wake up – I guess, you're praying to your resting-self ... who doesn't always grant your request? And you say God is complicated! **How would you explain all this to those inside your lesser reality?** How could you help them understand that *they're* living in something made of *nothing*? Try Isaiah's approach.

As it is with a dream, with a vision in the night— as when a hungry man dreams that he is eating, but he awakens, and his hunger remains; as when a thirsty man dreams that he is drinking, but he awakens faint, with his thirst unquenched. So will it be with the hordes of all the nations that fight against Mount Zion. – Isaiah 29:4-8 NIV

[The wicked] will fly away like a dream, and not be found; Yes, he will be chased away like a vision of the night. – Job 20:8 NKJ

As a dream when one awakes, so, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image. – Psalm 73:20 NKJ

This *isn't teaching* that God is *sleeping*. It's an illustration, *not an explanation*, to allow us to comprehend conceptually that which is beyond our capacitors ... I mean, *capacities*. And, **no matter how tragic or tormenting our dreams, when the sun rises everything's okay. So ...**

Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. – Ephesians 5:13-14 NIV

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of **[lesser]** things has passed away. – Revelation 21:4 NIV

If the Lord allowed *everyone*, ever *born*, everywhere, every *day*, to understand His invisible qualities, eternal power, and divine nature, what would that be *like?! Dreaming. The only time we only see when we close our eyes to this world*, and find a little rest from it. **Our perception of our reality is but a shadow of true reality**; and therefore we need to embrace by faith the ultimate reality of Christ through passion, persistence, and devotion. And, we must hold onto this perspective so we can trust our greater reality with greater frequency and greater consistency until it becomes our default when we need to flush our eyes. **We too quickly divorce our eyes from the Lord and snap back to this shallow shadow world.**

“Son, he said, “ye cannot in your present state understand eternity...That is what mortals misunderstand. They say of some temporal suffering, ‘No future bliss can make up for it,’ not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory. And of some sinful pleasure they say ‘Let me have but this and I'll take the consequences’: little dreaming how damnation will spread back and back into their past and contaminate the pleasure of the sin. Both processes begin even before death. The good man's past begins to change so that his forgiven sins and remembered sorrows take on the quality of Heaven: the bad man's past already conforms to his badness and is filled only with dreariness. And that is why...the Blessed will say ‘We have never lived anywhere except in Heaven,’ and the Lost, ‘We were always in Hell.’ And both will speak truly.” — C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*