

‘How Like an Angel!’: The Challenge of Being Human

J. Gordon McConville

Hamlet’s take on Psalm 8:5 (Act 2 Sc. 2) highlights the contradiction between the enormous potential of human beings and their mortality, ‘this quintessence of dust’. A biblical theology of humanity also moves between these poles. Human destiny is written in the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus. But what does this leave to be said about human potential in a fallen world, and related concepts such as creativity, excellence, professionalism, and power? The lecture explores what the divine ascription of ‘goodness’ might mean for the human being’s sense of purpose in the world (Gen. 1:31). It finds its resources mainly but not exclusively in the Old Testament, and aims to make a contribution to Christian thinking on the subject. Key words in the approach taken are ‘embodiment’ and ‘engagement’.

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Institute for Biblical Research

11/22/2013

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Room: Key 7-12 - Hilton Baltimore

Theme: *Annual Lecture*

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Tremper Longman, Westmont College, Welcome (10 min)

Nijay Gupta, Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan College, Scripture Reading and Prayer (10 min)

Mark Boda, McMaster Divinity College, Introduction (5 min)

Annual Lecture delivered by J. Gordon McConville, University of Gloucestershire, UK

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‘How Like an Angel!’: The Challenge of Being Human (40 min)

J. Richard Middleton, Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan College, Respondent (20 min)

Discussion (15 min)