

The Beauty Of The Lord

Psalm 27:4

Psalm 27:4 - One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD And to meditate in His temple.

Introduction:

- A. Someone has said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. A person, place, or thing that may appear beautiful to one individual may not seem beautiful to another. No matter how ugly a baby may look to others, it's beautiful to its mother!
- B. However, there are some things which a vast majority of people would consider beautiful: A colorful sunset; The starry heavens at night; "Purple mountain's majesty Across the fruited plain;" "The woods and forest glades" with birds, trees, and brooks.
- C. Then there are things which are beautiful in a metaphorical way, not because they look pretty but because they are considered pleasant: A fiftieth wedding anniversary; Grandma and Grandpa; Memories of the past; A good book.
- D. Read TEXT. To those whose lives have been made aware of the goodness of God, there can be nothing more beautiful than a right relationship with our Creator.
- E. So, what are some things that help us appreciate what the Psalmist calls TITLE.

I. In Creation

- A. One area where we see the beauty of the Lord is in creation - Gen. 1:1-31 (note esp. v. 31—very good)

Genesis 1:31 - God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- 1. We recognize that creation has been affected by sin in the world and can become ugly
- 2. But just as fallen man still retains some of God's image, so creation still reflects a lot of it also

- B. Thus, the beauty of nature demonstrates the beauty of its maker - Psa. 19:1-4

Psalm 19:1-4 - The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,

- C. In fact, the existence of beauty in the universe is one argument for the existence of God
 - 1. When we see a beautiful painting, we know that it didn't just happen—there must have been a talented painter; why isn't the same thing true with a beautiful sunset?
 - 2. Yes, the beauty of the sunset and of all beautiful things in nature remind us that there had to be someone to make all that natural beauty - Heb. 3:4

Hebrews 3:4 - For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

II. In Revelation

- A. Secondly, while the beauty of God can be seen in the creation, it can be even more clearly seen in revelation - Psa. 19:7-11

Psalm 19:7-11 - The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean,

enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.

1. Consider how beautifully the revelation of God's will in scripture fits together perfectly without any disunity
 - a. Mankind sinned and was driven away from the tree of life
2. God called Abraham and said through His seed the world would be blessed
3. Later He chose David as king and said that His seed would reign forever
4. Jesus came as the seed of Abraham and David to lead us back to God and the tree of life in paradise.

B. Thus, this revelation is beautiful because it offers sinful mankind salvation - Rom. 1:16

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

C. All the evidence points to the scriptures as being of divine origin for the benefit of mankind - 2 Tim. 3:16-17

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

III. *In Salvation*

A. A third area where we see the beauty of God is in the salvation revealed in scripture

1. The bad news is that we have sinned and are in danger of its eternal punishment - Rom. 3:23, 6:23

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

B. But God loved us enough to send His Son Jesus to save us so that might not have to suffer this eternal punishment - Matt. 1:23; Lk. 2:11; Jn. 3:16; 1 Tim. 1:15

Matthew 1:23 - "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

Luke 2:11 - for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:15 - It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

C. How did Jesus accomplish this purpose? By His death - Rom. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:1-4

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 - Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1. Thus, something as horrific and gruesome as the cross becomes a source of beauty and glory to the Christian - 1 Cor. 1:18; Gal. 6:14

1 Corinthians 1:18 - For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Galatians 6:14 - But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

“In that old rugged cross, Stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see;
For ‘twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died To pardon and sanctify me.”

“So I’ll cherish the Old rugged cross, Till my trophies At last I lay down;
I will cling to the Old rugged cross, And exchange it Someday for a crown.”

IV. *In Worship*

A. A fourth way in which we can see the beauty of God is in worship

1. This is what the Psalmist was talking about -- beholding the beauty of the Lord by dwelling in His house and inquiring in His temple
2. God wants His people to worship Him - Jn. 4:24; includes assembling together - Heb. 10:25

John 4:24 - "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Hebrews 10:25 - not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

B. For example, the blending of voices in song, regardless of how it may sound to men, is beautiful to God because it praises Him - Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15

Ephesians 5:19 - speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Hebrews 13:15 - Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

C. Also, our prayers, though they be offered with imperfect lips and even stammering tongues, are like beautiful incense before Him - Rev. 5:8

Revelation 5:8 - When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Conclusion:

- A. Thus, when we behold the wonders of God's natural creation, study carefully God's revelation in scripture, look at the way God has provided salvation to sinful mankind, and come together in sincere worship to God, we can truly see the beauty of the Lord.
- B. However, while all mankind can and should appreciate the beauty of the Lord, only those who have been saved from sin and become Christians fully experience it.
- C. So we ask, are you a Christian?