

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

September 8, 2020



When I think “beauty,” I think of autumn colors. [Vermont, October, 2008]

Beauty

There’s a story about a man who looked down at the ground all the time because he once found a five dollar bill on a sidewalk. The man never saw a sunrise or a sunset, beautiful trees or flowers... *but he did find another dollar and a half.*

When we spend our days gazing at the mundane, or the evil and all that is wrong with the world, we will never behold the beauty to be found here. Do we really want to live like that?

One of the reasons I love God so much is because while he has given us everything we need to sustain us, he has also given us much to enjoy. He has created a beautiful world — beautiful skies, beautiful mountains, beautiful seas, beautiful sunsets, beautiful trees. He created beautiful animals, and birds and butterflies. He decorates his world with beautiful flowers, of which Jesus said, *“not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these”* (Matthew 6:29). I heard someone say, recently, “try to be depressed while looking at a rose; that’s why we bring flowers into depressing situations, like hospitals and funerals.”

He has given humankind the ability to create beautiful things: art, music, literature — and even *food* (chefs call it “presentation”). I’ve been served with meals that looked almost too beautiful to eat! I even love much of the architecture that men have designed and built — beautiful buildings, bridges and beaches (Waikiki was swamp land at one time). It’s the height of arrogance for men to take all the credit for the things they design and build — they could do none of it if God had not provided the raw material.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). We are well-advised to find that which is beautiful in a world that is so often cluttered with ugly, twisted, perverse things — and people who seem to find pleasure in all of that. Those who make a practice of seeing the beautiful instead of the ugly are more pleasant to be around, have the best marriages and are the best parents. They look at the “bright side” — not naively, not in a Pollyanna sort of way, but recognizing that Solomon was right: *“God has made everything beautiful in its time.”* Beauty always elicits hope and joy and happiness. That’s why we can’t help but smile when we see a beautiful baby.

With all that is going on right now, Christians, of all people, should be able to look out and look up and see the beauty that God has created just for us. And the most beautiful thing God has given us is hope — our inheritance in Christ. The writer of Proverbs said, *“the lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance”* (Proverbs 16:6). And we have something even better:

...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...*Ephesians 1:18.*

Maybe we should pray today that God will give us eyes to see the beauty that he has created in the world, and the beauty he has in store for us, instead of focusing on the ugliness that men have imposed on the world.

*Unless otherwise indicated the opinions expressed in this publication and images used are solely those of David Posey. Email me at dpaulposey@mac.com or text me at (530) 558-5057

Whether you can join us in our zoom study today at 10 AM or not, this is what we'll be talking about for the next several weeks.

Conformed to His Image

Objective: To learn how to imitate Jesus in every aspect of my life

Synopsis

The title of this class, or project, is “*Conformed to His Image*.” **Our aim will be to study the life of Jesus with specific emphasis on those things that are transferrable to us.** We are *apprentices, interns, trainees, disciples* of Jesus.

Questions

1. Does God really *expect* us to be “Christ-like”? Dallas Willard puts the aim of our life this way: “*I’m learning to lead my life as he would lead my life if he were me.*” Do we agree this should be the goal of every baptized believer?
 2. If the answer to number 1 is “yes” what are some of the challenges we face in the effort to achieve Christ-likeness?
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Texts

1. Matthew 10:24-25 —
 2. Romans 8:28-30 —
 3. Romans 13:14 —
 4. I Corinthians 11:1 —
 5. II Corinthians 3:18 —
 6. John 15:1-11 —
 7. Philippians 2:5ff. —
 8. Colossians 3:17 —
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The Gospel of Mark

As we read through Mark (and supplemental texts), we’re looking for *what Jesus did* and *how he did it*; *what Jesus said* and *how he said it*; *what Jesus thought* and his *attitude* (if revealed); *his actions, reactions, responses and interactions with his friends, his opponents and strangers*; and *what is said about Jesus*.

Our aim is to **discuss these things** and then **apply them** to the ordinary events and situations that occur in our lives. We want this class to be be **practical**, not just theoretical.

Assignment: Read Mark 1
