

4.22.19 - Admiring God's Creation

God wants us to admire his creation. **Gen 2:9 - And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.** Notice that "pleasant to the sight" is listed before "good for food". A tree can be both good to look at and good for food, but there are many trees that are only good looking. You find them increasing the curb appeal of properties. The point is God made some trees just for looks. It would seem to follow that He expected us to enjoy them and praise Him for their beauty.

Gen 2:19 - And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. Here we have God showing Adam where the birds and animals came from, so Adam would not think it was something that happened over billions of years by chance before he descended from monkeys. God also wanted to impress Adam with the beauty and variety of the creatures He made. He does not hold a creation event every century to again show mankind His creating ability, we are to believe the account in Genesis by faith. We are still expected to be impressed by His creation, both how it looks and how it functions.

We have a bird feeder outside the window beside our dinning table. The male cardinal is always noticed for his red coat when he comes for some seeds. The nuthatch is noticed for his rather formal look and ability to walk in any direction on any part of a tree. The Carolina wren for its dance and ability to land on the bottom of the suet feeder like he was a small bolt tossed at a strong magnet. Some time you need something to think about, consider all the decisions and commands to mussels a bird needs to make just to fly. Now look at the size of its "computer" which can repair itself and is fueled by the food it helps the bird find.

There is much more to a bird than just flying so God put a lot of programming in that small head.

Nothing is as fun to watch as a squirrel in the trees. They can go up and down the tree like it had steps on it. They can go sideways facing up the tree almost as fast as up and down the tree. They can chase one out a branch with nothing nearby and the chased squirrel comes back on the underside of the branch. I watched one run out on a branch so far that the branch could barely support him and jump about 5 ft to the tip of a branch of my neighbor's tree the limb went down so far that I was sure it would break, but it didn't. When the branch came up a little from its lowest point the squirrel went back to running. Consider the feedback and computer power for that stunt and you have to be impressed with our God

If God wanted Adam to be impressed, He certainly wants us to also be impressed with his birds and animals. There is much more to admire about birds and animals, but there is more to God's creation.

Psa 48:1 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Psa 69:34 - Let the heaven and earth praise him, the seas, and every thing that moveth therein. Psa 148:3 - Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.148:4 - Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. I do not think the psalmist is commanding the parts of the creation to praise the Lord in our stead, but even if he is, we would be under a greater expectation to praise our God for His great works.

I was a science teacher for 33 years. God's world is beyond our imagination and understanding both on the grand scale and on the atomic scale. It is about 3000 miles across the United States and it seems like a long distance if you drive it all at once even with stops at night, but in the universe, that is too small a distance to consider. It is 93 million miles to the sun and at 100 mph, for

easy math, it would take 930,000 hrs to make the trip; that is 106 years with out stopping or slowing down. We obviously need to go much faster if we want to see the universe up close! The speed limit for space travel seems to be the speed of light in the real world. At that speed we can get to the sun in less than 9 min. Should be fast enough to see the universe in a year or so, but in astronomy distance is measured in light-years, how far light travels in one year or 5900,000,000,000 mi. The nearest star is 4.5 light years away, so at the speed of light you will be traveling 4.5 years to get there. When you get close it will take 9 years to get an answer from NASA if your radio is strong enough to reach that far. The nearest galaxy is 2.5 million light years away if scientists are right. So, we are not going to run out of places to visit if we can find a way to go faster than the speed of light.

It is almost the same going to smaller parts of the creation. A microscope will show beauty that we can not see with the unaided eye. Unlike a printed photo, as you look in the microscope you will see more detail instead of colored dots. Do a search for snowflake photos on line to see the detail God puts in something that will melt in the spring. I visited a web site where the owner was selling videos of amoebas and protozoa "eating" each other. God gave us more to learn about the microscopic and atomic world than we will ever discover.

If God expects us to admire the beauty, functionality and vastness of His creation, it would follow that He expects us to do the same for His greatest creation – human beings. He made them naked for a reason. Among the many guesses about the reason, must be, so they could be admired. On a real furry animal like a sheep it is hard to see the shape and movement of the body parts. We are made in God's image: **Gen 1:26 - And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.**

God is not the author of confusion so He wanted a nice clear image of His glory and beauty.

There are a number of women in the Bible that were noted for their beauty. If we may assume from **Eze 16:7** that it was common for young girls to be naked then verses like **Gen 24:16 - And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.** A girl with a robe would look like most of the other girls with robes except for the face, but a naked girl would be easy to recognize as "very fair to look upon" compared to the other girls. Since there is no negative given for seeing the beauty than God must expect us to notice and give Him praise for it like a nice sunset or a rainbow or a squirrel.

Even after the women were married, their beauty was noted somehow. The praise may have been to the wrong god, but some was given I am sure. **Gen 12:11-13 - And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: 12- Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. 13 - Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.** This is Abraham, who took his servants against 5 kings to rescue Lot and won. He is afraid for his life because of his wife's beauty and she was past her teen years by a lot of years. Abraham probably praised God for Sarai's beauty, but not on this occasion. Isaac does the same thing because of Rebekah's beauty. The beauty of women was noticed and we find no condemnation for noticing it, so God must want us to praise Him for their beauty.

Whether you think of the Song of Solomon as an allegory or take it literally, it is hard to ignore that the descriptions are of the human body. If the description of the human body is included in

scripture then why should we not admire this creation of God and praise Him for His creative skill?

Please remember that due to the fact that we are created in the very image of our creator that we are all also beautiful. Whether we are tall or short, skinny or fat, black or white, bald or hairy...we are wonderfully made. Once you have taken the sexuality out of nakedness by being naked and being around naked regularly then true admiration for the image and likeness of the Creator can be enjoyed and God can be praised. I believe this is one of the greatest fears of Satan and why he has convinced humans to hide the image and likeness of God. Let's face it, the last thing Satan wants is a bunch of images and likenesses of God running around everywhere so he convinced the Christians to hide and cover their very own Creator's image under the guise of moral superiority. You admire the rest of God's wondrous creation, but you hide his most wonderful creation...the one made in His likeness. Do you ever wonder who is happy about that? God made His image to be seen, Satan deceived them into thinking that the very thing that God said was good is bad. The only one who could be happy about that is Satan.

Break free from the bondage of Satan's lie, enjoy the creation the way the Creator intended it to be enjoyed. Admire the beauty of God's finest creature as God created it and proclaimed it good!