

Beyond Comprehension

“When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars and hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed. When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze, then sings my soul...”

The higher I go the smaller I feel! Flying is always a humbling experience for me as I look down from the window of a 747 to see a huge city turned into a small spectacle of twinkling lights, and the clouds in a beautiful array of splendor. When I view the vast domain of the Grand Tetons in the Yellowstone National Park and see its natural splendor, I wonder at how great and powerful our God is, and how little man is! As the Psalmist pondered Psalm 8:3-9 "When I consider Thy heavens and the work of Thy fingers, the moon and stars which Thou hast ordained, what is man that Thou doest take thought of him and the son of man that Thou doest take care of him, yet Thou hast made him lower than God and doest crown him with glory and majesty. Thou doest make him to rule over the works of thy hands, put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, also the beasts of the field and birds of the heaven, the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas. O Lord how majestic is Thy name in all the earth!"

When I fellowship with men of rank and affluence and with those of no means or rank, I think of their equality in the things of God. "Men of low degree are only vanity, and men of rank are a lie. In the balances they go up, together they are lighter than air." I recognize that all power belongs to God. Psalm 62:9. The Psalmist and Peter both tell us that "all flesh is like grass and its glory like the flower thereof, for the grass withers and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord abides forever."

I wonder, what does it all mean, and for what purpose has God given man the opportunity to live, grow and to rule both on earth and in eternity? 1 Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that your labor is not in vain." Twice we are admonished to focus on the word, and work of the Lord, but sometimes it seems so hidden, veiled, and obscure in a world where the works and pretense of man seem to veil the presence of God. In contrast the harlot who is boisterous, by the world that shouts and proclaims its own glory, revels in its own successes, strengths and power, yet the still small voice of God quietly whispers the truth and subtly admonishes us that this is the way, walk ye in it, and to come apart and rest awhile in the quietness of the night.

On a recent trip to the west coast, I witnessed these contrasts. In one place there were large crowds, with strong evident responses, and yet in another, there was just the testimonies of a child whose spirit responded to truth and the ever present witness of the spirit of God. From a broken and fragmented life in an institutionalized context, this child's spirit bore witness to the light of God. An obscure child that no one would notice or receive any worldly honor or acclaim and who would probably not mature into a functional adult, yet one who brings glory to God by walking in the truth and light of his conscience.

Psalm 24 "the earth is the Lords and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it. He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the rivers." My mind shouts. Impossible! We know that all good foundations are built deep in the earth and upon rock, anchored far below the frost level and far from damaging waters. How can this be that God would establish His world on the waters? How can it be that He can bring forth beauty from ashes? How can it be that He establishes strength in weaknesses? How can it be that He gives hope in sorrow? How can it be that we witness love through sacrifice? How can it be that we find comfort in conviction? How can it be that peace abounds amidst adversity? How can it be that we find fellowship in aloneness? How can it be that the most honorable things are veiled in the most humbling context? How can it be the glory of the bride of Christ emanates through the church of God composed of human frailty? It is too wonderful to behold. It is too great to comprehend. Yet if we will humble ourselves, like our Heavenly Father, to behold the small things of the earth, we too shall see the glory and greatness of the Lord!

When I was giving a presentation in Cody, WY, illustrating through the horse the relevancy of Ephesians 4, my pastor reminded me that nearly 28 years earlier in Southern California we had memorized that very portion of Scripture together. Now, many years later he was meeting weekly with a thirteen year old boy to memorize scripture together. Would it be profitable and be worthy of His time and investment in such a small unworthy child? Often God does His greatest works in the most menial task. The word of the Lord abides forever, therefore, do not be weary, but steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the work of the Lord., for surely it shall bring forth its fruit. – Lew Sterrett