

The Moon and Stars Speak



This time of year is the best time to sit out in the yard, in the early morning or late evening. It's warm but not HOT(!); the wind is a strong breeze at worst and not WIND(!); and the skies often put on a dramatic display of thunderclouds lit by the rising or setting sun, always changing, sometimes tinged with pink or red, sometimes backlit by lightning and accompanied by the bass drums of thunder.

As I sat out under the dark but lightening canopy of the sky this morning, I decided I should just shut up (a miracle in itself, no?) and listen to God speak His wisdom as I gazed up at the tiny lights of the stars and the half moon above my head.

A few things came to mind as I sat there.

Psalm 8

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens. . . .

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

I think about the moon, reflecting the light of the sun, the same way we reflect God's light, if we will. That brought to mind the story of Creation in Genesis 1, and especially this account of the fourth day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let

them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Thoughts of the contrast between the beauty of God's Creation and images of fallen and corrupt humans brought to mind some of my favorite passages from C.S. Lewis' message "The Weight of Glory." Much as I find myself sitting in judgment of people whose lifestyles or world views with which I disagree, I think of what Lewis said.

In the Psalm above, David asks, "what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?" C.S. Lewis reminds us of an answer to that question.

To please God... to be a real ingredient in the divine happiness... to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in a son- it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is. . . . It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors."

When I look at people walking around the store, some of whom don't speak English, I remind myself that each one of those people, even the raggedy, stringy-haired hulks who shuffle down the aisle, are potential "gods or goddesses", to use Lewis' terms. Maybe that person is one who is specially called by God but needs to have that calling revealed to him/her.

One more from C.S. Lewis:

"At present we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door. We discern



How Honest Can You Be?

Ray Bentley Ministries

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS
We honor Pastor Ray's life by continuing to share the daily devotions he prepared for you, his precious readers.

"My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to Your Word."— Psalm 119:28, NIV

How wonderful it is to go to God, your heavenly Father, and just lay it out there. I'm tired, weary with sorrow. I'm having trouble carrying on. But please, strengthen me according to Your Word.

As we mature in the Lord, we know that God's Word is the foundation for our strength. Whatever boost of faith and energy He gives us is promised in His Word; He will not use means that contradict His Word. But He will be there.

I am relieved to have discovered how honest I can be with God! I finally learned how foolish it is to be dishonest with Him. Have you ever gone into prayer praising and thanking God, and pretending to love everybody—because you know we're supposed to?

I have.

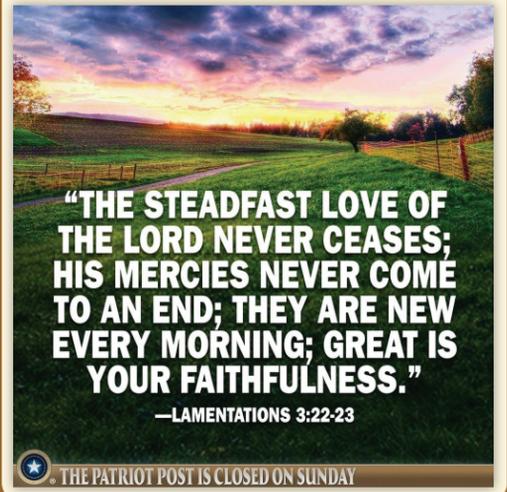
Praise and thanks are good if those are the sincere expressions of your heart. But if the reality is that you're uptight and you feel like punching someone, or you are hurting and overwhelmed—then you need to be honest with the Lord.

David prayed for his enemies. Remember those prayers? "God, smite them... break them...."

Now God may not answer those prayers the way you want, but at least you're being honest and opening your heart to Him. Then when you've calmed down, you can ask Him to help you and allow Him to change your heart.

When God does a genuine, heart-changing work in your life, you can stop striving to be something you're not. You can stop feeling condemned and frustrated.

The results will be lasting and real. Maturing in the Lord will bring a level of honesty into our lives that will bring change and answered prayers.



the freshness and purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the splendours we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumour that it will not always be so. Some day, God willing, we shall get in."

Won't that be wonderful when we DO get in?? Wow!

Linda Gimmel

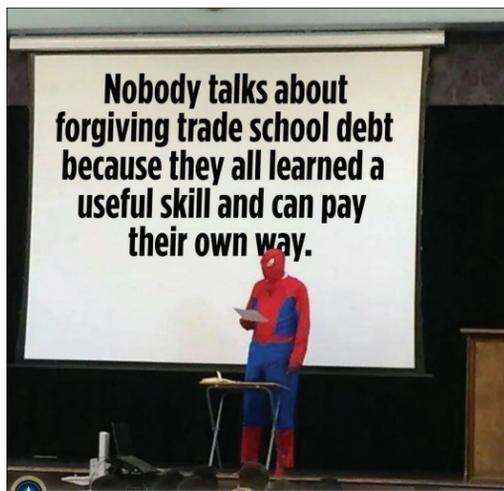
On The Lighter Side . . . Contributed from the Web

Government adding up how much I owe them for the services I never asked for and don't want:



TOP ANALYSIS, MEMES, AND CARTOONS AT PATRIOTPOST.US

Nobody talks about forgiving trade school debt because they all learned a useful skill and can pay their own way.



TOP ANALYSIS, MEMES, AND CARTOONS AT PATRIOTPOST.US

WHEN THERE'S A KNOCK ON THE DOOR



AFTER YOU'VE BEEN POSTING ANTI-GOVERNMENT MEMES ALL DAY

TOP ANALYSIS, MEMES, AND CARTOONS AT PATRIOTPOST.US

First we overlook evil. Then we permit evil. Then we legalize evil. Then we promote evil. Then we celebrate evil. Then we persecute those who still call it evil.

FOR OBJECTIVE AND UNCENSORED ANALYSIS: PATRIOTPOST.US

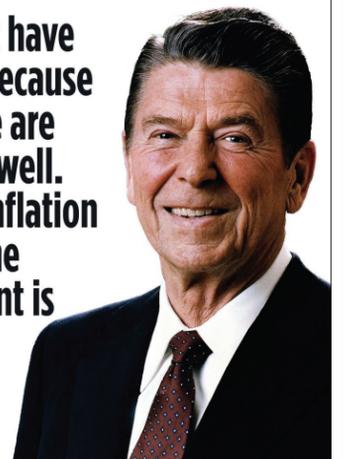
ON THE PORCHES
here at Lucerne Valley Market and Hardware

BAKE SALE!
Sat, Aug 6th

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

by the First Assembly of God Church

"We don't have inflation because the people are living too well. We have inflation because the government is living too well."
—Ronald Reagan



FOR OBJECTIVE AND UNCENSORED ANALYSIS: PATRIOTPOST.US