

Your message burns in my heart and bones, and I cannot keep silent. (Jeremiah 20:9)

The testimony of JESUS is the spirit of the prophecy. (Revelation 19:10c)

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Enjoying God's "Very Good" Creation (Observation)

Elohim saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)

Let's face it, we've all faced pressures and challenges, sometimes intense, over the last year or so. It hasn't been an easy road and some (perhaps many) are still facing these challenges. Unfortunately, as stressed in many insights, there is more to come. In the meantime, there is a danger that with some restrictions lifted and some freedoms returning, even with built-in restrictions that people seem willing to tolerate (no job, no job; no mask, no fly—a form of extortion), people will embrace a hedonistic lifestyle: *Eat and drink, for tomorrow we die*. There are signs of this already. The spirit of the world, which, by the way, is antichrist, is as strong as it has ever been. We need to heed John's warning: ***Do not love the world or the things in the world.*** Why? ***Because the world system as we know it is passing away.***

This doesn't mean that God's very good creation is passing away and we should not love it; it means that man's world system that seeks to keep all of us in bondage and indebtedness to it, is passing away. This is what we are not to love. John, Peter, Paul, and the others lived in a day in which the world system that dominated their lives was about to pass away in 70 AD. Our day is very much the same. We are on the cusp of dramatic change that will be punctuated by the end of Man's Day and the manifestation of God's Day. King Jesus is coming!

Well, much could be said along these weighty (heavy) lines, but I want to switch gears to something more on the light side that has to do with recognizing and enjoying God's very good creation, even as man's creation is crumbling.

God's creation is all around us, but how many truly observe it in such a way that they not only recognize it but also enjoy it? People, it's time to get your heads out of your cell phones and social media and into God's very good! You don't know what you are missing. As I finished writing this insight, I came across a perfect illustration through some whale watchers looking for whales off the Baja, Mexico coast. Check out this link; you'll understand what I mean.

https://www.theepochtimes.com/photos-show-whale-watchers-failing-to-see-huge-whale-pop-up-right-beside-their-boat-in-baja_3863204.html

Enjoying God's "Very Good" Creation

By the way; as a kid, my dad and I were out in his 12-foot aluminum boat (in case you don't know; this is a small boat) off Race Point, Cape Cod. We were a few miles out (could barely see the shore) jigging for mackerel; it was a calm day so the ocean was pretty flat. Without any notice, our boat rose high in the air and came down. A few minutes later, we saw a very large whale surface near the boat. The whole time we were jigging, our fellow Beach Buggy (look it up) friends were using binoculars to observe a whale breaking surface near us. We had no idea the whale was there until our boat rose up as it passed under us. The point: be watchers, observe what's going on around you!

Now, to the point of what follows. Something my wife and I have learned to enjoy over the years is enjoying God's very good creation. When the world system seems to crowd in in ways that want to drag us down, we turn to creation itself and take great pleasure in what we see. When we do, we see the glory of God. Actually, our testimony is that the Lord Jesus knows when we need a little pickup, and He often does it through His creation.

This isn't the first time I've shared on some observations about God's creation. If interested, check out this link: [Son Rising](#).

Well, here are some new ones.

We start our day taking a walk in that period right before the sun makes its glorious appearance for the day. It's a wonderful time to be out in God's creation. Occasionally, we might see a neighbor or two walking at the same hour, but some of them are listening to something through their ear pods and seldom seem to be looking at their surroundings. One early morning walker literally only looks down, never up. Stay out of his way, or he won't see you! They don't know what they are missing. Some mornings I want to yell throughout our community: "Wake up, people (literally); open your eyes and your ears and behold God's creation."

Well, allow me to share what a day could look like for us. Mind you; we don't experience all this in one walk or in one day—think of it as a collection of experiences over time.

The day starts with listening to the chorus of frogs croaking away in a nearby creek. Before we hit the sidewalks, we step out onto our patio to listen to Jeremiah the bull frog lead the chorus of several varieties of frogs. Sometimes, they sound like they are competing with one another—the deep-bass croakers and the higher-pitched chirpers (my term, not a biological one) sounding off as if without a care. One day, their chorus was all tuned up and they were croaking in unison. Jeremiah was doing a great job.

So, we then hit the street and the first thing we do is look up at the stars, especially looking for the moon. The moon is a marvel of God's creation. Without it, earth would be a much

different place. I pray hotels are never built there—the thought of neon signs lighting them up and seeing them on earth is quite unsettling.

A full moon is a wonderful sight, especially when it's in a trajectory that takes it closer to the earth. Years back when there was an eclipse and a red moon, it was a sight to behold. It looked so big that it seemed as if it touched earth. The latest heavenly sight of a supermoon of this order occurred on May 26-27, 2021 during a lunar eclipse. In our area, the best we could hope to see was a partial lunar eclipse and, even this, the local meteorologist said we should not expect to see. Well, God had something else in mind for us. For half our walk we saw nothing of the moon, even as we peered into the sky. Then as if it had been hidden from us, something caught our eye and we looked up. There it was—a reddish-orange, glorious moon. But there was more; it was in a partial eclipse, just what we were told we wouldn't see. Our response was: Glory to God! By the way; the next day, the same meteorologist said that it was a wash-out—the area missed seeing both the red moon and the eclipse. Also, during our walk, we came across two neighbors and asked them if they saw the moon—one said yes but he didn't see the partial eclipse; the other never looked up to see it. Arranged by God? We believe so!

Since its still springtime, even before the sun breaks the horizon, there is the chorus of birds. Boy, do birds know how to sing! Coming from both sides of the street and from adjacent woodlands, we hear a multitude of a variety of birds, and they're all singing a happy song for us, each with a different tune. Well, of course, not quite for us, but we enjoy hearing God's creatures starting the day with a song in their hearts. Like the frogs, some mornings, they sing as if they are led by a conductor. Perhaps, the spirit of the Lord directs them just for us to enjoy as a reminder...

All the earth will worship you, and will sing to you; they will sing to your name.

(Psalm 66:4)

Then the occasional herd of deer will go prancing across the road. It's a wonder to watch them run. Sometimes, they will even stop to look at us. We wonder what they are thinking. Or, we hear the coyotes howling off in the distance. Or, we hear the rooster announcing the day from a house outside of our community.

One morning, we looked up and saw this brightly lit object with a tail of light slowly coursing its way into the heavens. We were looking at the SpaceX spaceship taking off from Florida, many miles away—looked more like a lit-up white butterfly. Of course, this was made by man, but it still reminds us of God who has given those created to be in His image a creative ability to fashion things from the soil of this earth. This trait alone speaks to our origin being from God—better yet, in His Son, through whom all things are created.

On one resurrection day (aka Easter), the sky was fully dark when out of the darkness came a cloud that was literally lit up, appearing as a cross with a figure on it. We watched as it moved upward until it disappeared and the sky was once again pitch dark. But God!

Now, once home, as soon the sun starts to lighten the day, we look for the rabbits. At the moment, we have a young one (this year's crop) that has adopted the area right outside our sunroom. It likes eating grass and whatever flowering plants we mistakenly plant; mistakenly because we did not inquire whether rabbits like these plants or not. In the case of one type of plant we put in the ground, sure enough it was like dessert—the little rabbit devoured pretty much everything that it could down to the nub. So, I went online to learn what flowering plants rabbits like and don't like and went to the nursery and bought both types. Yes; both types! We didn't want the rabbit to go hungry, so we bought a marigold plant with these large luscious flowers. Well, they were so luscious, the rabbit devoured them like candy. It was actually fun to watch. So, we marveled and chuckled at God's little creature with ears that move like radar discs.

But, there's more. One day we looked out a window and saw a mother rabbit feeding her babies. Without us knowing, she had made a nest for her newborns under a bush close to our house. Every day, we look out this particular window and never saw a sign of their presence. It turns out that rabbits hide their young literally underground, often in plain sight, and the mother checks on them morning and evening and feeds them. The only indication that there was a nest was a small hole in the ground. As the newborns grew stronger, they ventured out of their den, staying relatively close to their birthplace, until one day they simply ran off. It was a lot of fun watching them as they began to explore their new world.

Oh, I forgot. Did I tell you we love rabbits and God knows how much we do? Check out my story of the rabbit: [**Go Back - the Resurrected Rabbit.**](#)

I have to give honorable mention to the squirrels. Understandably so, some people find them a nuisance (as they find rabbits), but actually, they are quite fascinating, even fun, to watch. I just wish they wouldn't try to plant nuts throughout our mulch beds. The burying of them is not so much the problem; it's when they dig them up, they make a mess as they throw the mulch all over the place and don't clean up after themselves. But then again, after all, they are squirrels and they play their part well.

Well, then there's the turtle. A few years back, a snapping turtle showed up on our patio. Thinking it was lost, I picked it up and headed it back to the lake that was some distance away. The next year, another snapper showed up. As we watched it maneuver around the area, we finally figured out what she was up to when she dug a hole and planted eggs and covered it up. That year, we only got a brief showing of her activity. However, this year, we

got the full show. One day, she wandered all over the place, periodically stopping and attempting to dig a hole. If the ground was not suitable, she would simply move on and try again. On day one, she wandered off without us ever seeing if and where she laid her eggs. On day two, a turtle showed up again (not sure if it was the same one) and this time she found a spot she liked that is in the same area the rabbit frequents every day. By the way; we decided to call her *Gracie*, so we wouldn't lose track of her again. (Don't ask how we would know her from any other turtle; we haven't figured that out yet.) The process of digging with her rear flippers and then laying the eggs was fascinating to watch. She firmly planted her front flippers in the ground so her front would not move during the entire process and she could maintain the correct position over the hole she had dug. She laid the eggs moving her rear side-to-side until she was done, and then pushed dirt over them, patting down the dirt with her flippers. During the whole process, her front legs did not move out of position. This was repeatedly done until she was sure they were secured properly for their 70–90-day incubation. Mind you; she never had a view of what she was doing and never looked back to be sure it was done correctly. The point came when she just knew that it was ok (probably a "God thing"). With her head held high, she turned to the direction of the lake and swiftly moved away, never looking back, not even to say goodbye. Now, we wait, hoping we will see the turtles come popping out of the ground.

Now, let's talk about snakes. I am not a fan of snakes, but I can appreciate that they are part of God's creation; just as long as they don't intrude on my space. Well, the other day I was on our patio and looked toward the border of our property (only eight feet away) and my eye caught something moving. To my amazement (understatement), I watched a 10-12-foot-long black racer snake swiftly moving through the downed magnolia leaves I often rake into that area. The strange part of this story is that black snakes don't normally grow this long; at least according to online sources. I have met 6-foot snakes before (generally the upper end of their length), but never one this long. Weirdly, like the mother turtle, it was slithering with its head held up quite high. I've never observed a snake move like that. Was it laying eggs someplace in our backyard? It's possible, since the week before, I met a 4-foot black snake on the patio. For these events, I do not call my wife so she can observe them, since her interest level in snakes is not very high (another understatement).

Finally, I cannot leave out the trees and the shrubs that I've planted and cared for, for over a decade now. Neighbors might think I'm a bit off the wall when I tell them this, but I commit each plant to the kingdom of God and encourage them to flourish, and this they have done. Years ago, along our patio, I planted what are called *arborvitae*s, which are beautiful evergreens. They started out as 2–3-foot plants; now at 8-15 feet, they form a wall of privacy. But they are more than just a wall, for in some strange way, they soothe the soul to the point that some days it's almost like they are inviting us to hug them. I know this sounds redundant, but there is something "living" about them, which leads to...

For years, I had no clue as to the meaning of the word *arborvitae* until a landscaper mentioned it to me. *Arborvitae* is a Latin form of the French, "*l'arbre de vie*," which means, "*tree of life*." I can't make this stuff up: Some days after learning this, I decided to count how many trees of life we have. I first planted nine arborvitaes, one of which got diseased and had to be removed, so we now have eight of them. For those of you who read my stuff regularly, you should know my next thought. Yes; the number **8** signifies *life*; it's about *new beginnings, new creation*. So, not only do we have trees of life surrounding us, but there are eight of them, signifying new-creation life. A double witness! It is a double witness of the kingdom of God manifested through His creation and the glory to come.

Around the same time the arborvitaes were planted, I also planted two "teddy bear magnolias". These too are beautiful, stately evergreens that give forth gorgeous white blooms and shed a lot (I mean a *lot!*) of leaves. When we read the specs on these trees, we may have missed the part that they can grow taller than 30 feet. Guess what; sitting behind the arborvitaes, they tower over them and us at more than 30 feet. Should we be surprised; after all, I committed them to grow as kingdom plants.

All of this comes down to an experience my wife had with the Lord and the magnolias. She often stands on the patio and prays. This particular day, she had her eyes closed and was asking the Lord to reveal Himself in His creation. She opened her eyes and found herself staring at a fully formed, beautiful magnolia blossom. It was as if the Lord spoke to her spirit that He was inviting her to behold His beauty in His creation.

To our fellow saints, this is the lesson: We are surrounded by, even immersed in, the beauty of the Lord if we would just open our eyes and ears to His "very good" creation. And when we do, we realize that our Creator is not going to destroy His "very good"—He is going to release it into the glory of His kingdom in the ages to come in such a way that it will far exceed even what we experience of His "very good" today. As Paul reminds us, the whole creation groans, including us, as we await our unveiling as the sons of God, when the groan will be no more and glory will fill this earth. Until then...

Announce to the nations, shout it out: "***Yahweh [Jesus] reigns; He is King***. The world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all it contains; let the field exult, and all that is in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy. ***Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy triumphantly before the LORD, for He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth***. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness. (Psalm 96:10-13; 98:8-9 compilation)

This is very, very, very good!