


LOOKING UP

November-December 2023



"...look up, and lift
up your heads."
Lk. 21:24

The Good, Beautiful, and True

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

Hard-wired into every human being is the desire for certain things which transcend our lives and experiences. That is to say things that are what they are, regardless of how things may go in our lives. We seek them out in many and various ways, only to find that when we catch glimpses of them, rather than being satisfied we crave them even more. These are what philosophers and

theologians throughout the centuries have come to call the three Transcendentals: The Good, the Beautiful, and the True.

And we do catch glimpses of these. When we see a mother tenderly holding her baby, nurturing, loving and caring for her, any person with even the slightest sense of reality will recognize that they are beholding something inherently good. If we stand before a majestic waterfall as its waters cascade with a thunderous roar and see the perpetual rainbow appearing in the spray below, the only sensible reaction is to declare it to be beautiful. Confronted with a

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Regular Schedule

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship service

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Meal

2nd Sunday of the month

Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday
of the month

Ladies Bible Study

10:00 AM Wednesdays

Youth Group

TBA

Friday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM Location TBA

painting by one of the great masters of the craft, where we are drawn into the feeling and emotion of the scene, it would be unthinkable not to render the judgment that what it conveys is essentially true.

It's hard not to notice that each one of these entails the others. Something which is beautiful is necessarily also good. Nothing could possibly be true without the acknowledgement that it is marked with beauty. Yet, in all of these examples, we must admit that though they are good, beautiful, and true, they also do not fully fulfill our internal desire for them. If anything, being exposed to them only increases our desire for them, as if there is ultimately something more for which we have been made.

So, hard-wired into each one of us is the desire for these transcendental things, of which we can only catch glimpses, and which are all interrelated. And there is only one place where we find the fullness of the Good, the Beautiful, and the True:

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.” (1 Chron. 16:34)

“Your eyes will see the King in His beauty...” (Is. 33:17)

“Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O Lord, God of truth.” (Ps. 31:5)

The glimpses of these things that we catch in this life are glimpses of God's nature reflected in His creation. And when we know what God has done to save us in Jesus Christ and we acknowledge Him as our Savior, we experience now by faith what we will one day experience in fullness...that God is our Goodness, our Beauty, and our Truth.

Looking Ahead

November 21st

Red Cross Blood Drive

December 10th

Christmas Program

December 24th

Christmas Eve Song Service

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20

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