

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel”

Sin In The Garden, Drugs In The Valley by Linus A. Mathis III

God's purpose for creation is made clear to us in the opening passages of His Word. The heavens and all they contain were created for the express purpose of supporting the earth. God went to great lengths to make this orb inhabitable. He richly garnished her surface with vegetation and made her to bristle with life. He bathed her in water and lovingly enveloped her with a sweet and opulent oxygen based atmosphere. Both are requisite for life and found no where else in such abundance.

All of creation is demonstrative of the Lord's handiwork. For instance, the unique (yet vital for climate control) properties of water are an obvious testimony of creation's Divine Designer. Water contracts and becomes denser (a standard physical change in the properties associated with liquids as they pass to a solid state in lower temperatures) as it gets colder, until frozen (32 F), at which point it is lighter (less dense) than when liquid.

This is why ice floats, ensuring its eventual return to liquid, thus avoiding a devastating global freeze-over. If water behaved differently, earth could not support any life.

With every detail in place, God had reached the final stages of His creative genius. Nothing was overlooked, He could realize His dreams. Man's home was ready (Genesis 2:7)! Now, this may not agree with popular opinion but it is Biblical and the Bible was not written for unbelievers. The Scriptures declare that God's reason for creation is earth (Genesis 1), and the reason for earth is man, and the reason for man is God (Isaiah 43:7). God wanted a family. He wanted someone to share eternity with, someone to love and bless. He wanted someone who could reciprocate His love. So he made, formed and created man and when He provided a home for His man He did so in GREAT abundance! He put man in Paradise, Eden, the garden of God. A place of perfection, void of pain, fear, grief, sickness and death.

Genesis 1:31a

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold *it was* very good.

Not just good, but VERY GOOD! Man's environment and relationship with God was unblemished, until sin entered the garden (Genesis 3). Paradise, the garden of God, was stained. Man was banished. The garden was no longer available to man. Fear ruled where love had reigned. Pain, sickness and death followed. Even the ground was cursed for man's sake (Genesis 3:17). What once gave birth to life sustaining nourishment (Genesis 1:29) now brought forth thorns and thistles, i.e. weeds. Death loomed in dark shadows where life had played in bright sunshine.

Adam and Eve's every need was met. There was no good reason for them to disobey God. They gained nothing and lost every thing. All because they placed their desires above God's, never thinking that "Father knows best." Now, we may not live in the garden of God but our "Valleys" are among the most beautiful in the world. Even our

underprivileged are rich by world standards. Sadly, there are those, who, like Adam and Eve, are unsatisfied with the beauty God so richly provides. They are deceived, thinking they can add beauty to life by altering their consciousness (getting high on drugs or alcohol). As the Serpent did Eve, some endeavor to beguile our children and corrupt their minds from the simplicity that is in Christ. They often defend their lies and abuse of controlled substances by alleging God's approval, e.g. "If God didn't want you to smoke marijuana it wouldn't grow from the ground." "It's O.K. 'cause it's natural." Yeah, right! Cursed ground, thorns and thistles, remember! Drugs in the Valley, kids, won't help you any more than sin in the Garden helped Adam and Eve. The only way to bring joy into your life (if it's lacking) is to bring God into it. Fellowship with God, NOT drugs or alcohol, is the key to a joyful life.

I John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

(For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was

with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Psalms 16:11

Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fullness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures forevermore.
