

IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Genesis 1:29-31 "Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground---everything that has the breath of life in it---I give every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. "

For the last few weeks I have been watching spring come into its' glory starting with the crocus, daffodils and dogwood. Now, other trees are covered with new green leaves and blossoms of flowering plum and cherry while iris in their amazing dresses are showing off in yards all over: purple and white, yellow and purple, yellow and brown, burgundy, a dark almost black purple, and other seemingly endless varieties. I freely admit that dogwoods and iris are some of my favorites and I'm blessed to have some in my yard. Every day on our walk with Maggie, I see something else in bloom or hear the song of a bird perched in a tree. As soon as the sun peeks out from behind a cloud in Oregon, we are outside with our shovels, trowels, planting soil, and compost. We can't wait to start putting petunias, lobelia, marigolds and alyssum into pots and flower beds around our homes. The combinations, colors, textures, sizes, and smells are amazing and give the heart an encouragement and lift not found in other ways.

Spring speaks to us of hope and newness of life but, even more than that, it speaks to us of God's infinite creativity and beauty. Genesis 1 tells the whole story of creation and it should amaze and humble us to know that God created all we see for our benefit and pleasure. Each part of His creation God said was "good" and **Genesis 1:29** begins by saying, "I give you...." God made every beautiful thing we see *for us*. Driving along the freeway doesn't give me much of a sense of Creation, but walking through my neighborhood sure does; even just the smallest glimpse helps me recognize and take notice of God's hand all around me. From the tiniest ant on my driveway to mighty Mt. Hood, God created it; from the green spike of a flower bulb thrusting up through the ground to banks of thunderheads piling up from the ocean, God created it.

Open your eyes and look around. Have new eyes.

See what God has done.

See His beauty.

Focus on what He does rather than what is going on in the world.

See that "it is good".

Watch God's infinite creativity....it changes by the moment.

*See His love for you revealed in Creation.
Witness His power, character, and holiness.
Take time to see what God has done.....for you.
Listen to God's voice.
Enjoy God's creation as He does.*

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.
There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out
into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." **Psalm 19:1-4a**

Blessings on your week as you see God's beauty all around you!
Georgia