

Like Apples of Gold

The heavens tell of the glory of God; And their expanse declares the work of His hands.
Psalm 19:1

Four times every year, God redecorates His world. Spring, summer, fall and winter, God puts His special touches on the trees, the grass, the rivers, the mountains, when every ecosystem declares the work of His hands, as do the heavens themselves.

Many years ago, Jimmy Dean, the famous singer (and sausage maker), sang a deeply moving song which was a message from an American to a typical, mythical Russian named Ivan. Part of the song addresses the reality that Ivan is an atheist. The lyrics reach out to Ivan with a caring challenge,

*You know, they tell me that, over there, you don't believe in God,
But though I've never met you, I can't help but believe that
A man who's stood on a crisp fall morning and watched
The sun rise over his farmland, or he's planted a small grain of corn
And seen it grow out of the fertile soil or better than that, Ivan,
Held your own baby in your arms, I know that you know that there's
A God up there watching over each and every one of us.*

God intended for us to look up at the stars and to look out at the fall foliage and realize, "There's a God up there watching over each and every one of us." From the oak's crimson regalia to the aspen's golden glow, God is proclaiming His glory to us and His love for us. From His gifts of color vision to the warmth of the sun on a crisp autumn day, His world is declaring His glory... and His "expanse declares the work of His hands."

Thursday evening, Sandy and I drove Missionary Ridge (north of Durango) to Henderson Lake, a small but exquisite blue gem nestled in a setting of gold aspen trees. And we cannot help but remember not only His world but His word, as we are reminded of Proverbs 25:11, *Like apples of gold in settings of silver, is a word spoken at the proper time.*

Yes, **our** words can be the beauty in the heart like the aspens are the beauty in His mountains. As we strive to see the beauty He has laid before us, let us also strive to make our words a beauty in the hearts of others. Lord, thank you for the wonders around us that declare the work of Your hand. And let us live so that our song comes to fruition, "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me."

Ray Wallace