



September 13, 2009

Chasing Rainbows

Over the past two weeks a couple of storms moved through the area. The worst part of the storms went around us in the Dayton area, but other nearby cities were not as fortunate. Lightning and localized flooding in some regions caused problems and one business had to suspend their operations due to structural damage from the volume of water. One of the more pleasant things that came from the storm systems that passed through was the formation of several rainbows that were very large and extremely bright. This past week I saw something that I had not observed before. As my daughter and I were driving to a local store, we saw one of the largest rainbows that I have ever seen. The amazing thing about this was that the ends of the rainbow could be seen. As we followed the roads, and got closer to the rainbow, we reached an area where the colors were literally falling on a housing project. As we approached we could see mist in the air and followed the downward sweep of the rainbow. Colors were literally falling across the homes in a subdivision one hundred yards from the roadway. We watched the colors moving across the houses, painting them in brilliant shades of the various color bands. I have read and heard old stories about finding the end of the rainbow and there it was. I thought of the promise that God made to Noah and all of mankind after the flood. ***“And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.” (Gen 9.12-13).*** God promised he would never again destroy the world with a flood and each time I see a rainbow I think of that. What an incredible bit of evidence the rainbow is for the existence of God and his promises. I also thought about the folks who lived in these houses and wondered if they were aware of what was happening to their homes as the brilliance swept over them. God has poured his blessings out on all of mankind in a variety of ways. Christ stated that God ***“...maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good,***

and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matt 5.45). How many times do we pass up the opportunity to watch something as spectacular as a rainbow, or a storm, or simply to look at the sky and appreciate the power and wonder that manifests in every cloud that passes. In our day and time we can explain the rainbow as a phenomenon as light is diffracted in water droplets causing the light waves to break down into the component wavelengths thus revealing the composite colors that form visible light. We can explain it that way but that does not rule out the fact that knowing how something happens is not the same as understanding how it came about in the first place. Paul told the Romans that the invisible things of God are known through the things that can be seen **(Rom 1.20)**. The physical, being a reflection of the power and majesty of God, is also a statement of the care that he has shown to mankind. In a similar fashion we may understand that the power of God is visible in the existence of the scriptures. In them God tells us how he brought about the plan to save all of mankind and sent his son to offer the final sacrifice for the sins of the world. As we go about our daily affairs we might not take the time to look toward God by seeking knowledge of him through this word. How many people remain ignorant of the love and power that is all around us in the provision that God has made for us to know and understand his will. There are those who may live an entire lifetime and never take the time to stop and consider their souls. The power of God is revealed in the physical creation, of which the rainbow is one aspect, but the power of God is also revealed in the revelation of the Gospel. As Paul states, ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Rom 1.16).*** When was the last time you stopped to watch a rainbow? When was the last time you opened a Bible to read about the power and wonder of God? We all need to take time to do this and learn to appreciate what God has done for us. **TLC**