

## **April Showers Bring May Flowers**

**By Kent Heaton**

Spring is in the air. The beauty of this time of year is testimony of the majesty of its creator and the providential plan He has established for the refreshing of His creation. Following the destruction of the flood God promised Noah *"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease"* (Gen. 8:22). The fears of a global warming are denied by this promise that the seasons will all continue as God has prescribed. David declares in Psalm 8, *"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him"* (Psalms 8:3-4)? Spring reminds us of the presence of our Creator.

There is order in creation. Moses recorded the account of the creation of earth with the division of light and darkness, the firmament from the waters, dry land from the seas and then the process of plant growth over the face of the land. On the fourth day the lights in the firmament of the heavens were established "for signs and seasons, and for days and years" (Gen. 1:14). Then the animals began to appear in the waters and the skies filled with the "every winged bird according to its kind" (Gen 1:21). Finally on the sixth day the land animals were created and the highest of creation the man and woman.

Paul reminds us of the testimony of the Lord in creation. *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead"* (Rom. 1:20). The cycle of nature is a testimony to the power of God and is infinite wisdom. Rains are governed by His omniscience and come when according to His design they nurture the ground in bringing forth the beauty of Spring. Summer, Fall and Winter serve their own purposes in the design of God.

It is impossible to look at the striking beauty of this earth and not stand in awe of the powerful message from God. His thumbprint is all over the landscape and the heavens above. Abraham Lincoln said, "I never behold them (the heavens filled with stars) that I do not feel I am looking in the face of God. I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist – but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say, 'There is no God.'" Jesus used creation to affirm His Father's care for His children. *"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them ... consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these"* (Matt. 6:26-29).

The power of God. How awesome. If God can cloth the earth with garments of beauty and order what would limit His omnipotence to care for His creation beyond the grave. The beauty of God's love is not found in a field of lilies or the majesty of the heavens above. The greatest gift of love is found at a place called "the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha" (John 19:17). All the beauty of the earth will be taken away but the gift of God's love is eternal (John 3:16). Thank you God.

### **A Sermon Never Forgotten**

Throughout the years I have heard many wonderful sermons which I have forgotten, but one sermon have I seen and it has remained in my heart until this day. It happened on a Sunday morning when I was on my way to one of the two small congregations in Munich, Germany, on a cold, rainy day in November.

After I got out of bed, I looked through the window which was covered with ice ferns. New deep snow had fallen during the night covering the streets of the city. I tried to decide whether I should go to worship or stay home and read my Bible. I realized the congregation

would miss me, for I was the only song leader they had. On the other hand I would have to walk a half block to catch the bus to the building. Finally I decided to go but only because I must lead the singing.

While I was riding the bus, I noticed two people trying hard to make their path through the snow. I recognized the people and knew where they were going. They were Brother and Sister Trollman, a faithful couple who attended every service. Brother Trollman was a man in his eighties who had lost his eyesight. His only guidance was his seventy-eight year old wife, who was lame in one foot. They lived in a little two room apartment, and received a little support from the government. Because they could not afford to ride the bus to the services, which were about three miles away, they walked the distance every Lord's Day.

Here I was sitting in a warm bus, unwilling to go to worship, forced by my duty as a song leader, and there, outside in the cold weather, were two old people driven to worship by their love for the Lord. I was not able to do anything but blush, ashamed of myself and the weak faith and love I had proved to my Lord. I felt like an evildoer in court being judged by his own conscience. This old couple without their knowledge and without one word had taught me a greater lesson than could ever be said in words. (An American G.I. (Quoted in Jack Ray, "The Power Of An Example," The Lehman Avenue Weekly Communicator, Feb. 4, 1987)

### **Slow to Speak**

*"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God"* (James 1:19-20).

George Martin tells the following true story: "I remember a fellow who once wrote a nasty letter to his father. Since we worked in the same office, I advised him not to send it because it was written in a fit of temper. But he sealed it and asked me to put it in the mail. Instead, I simply slipped it into my pocket and kept it until the next day. The following morning he arrived at the office looking very worried. 'George,' he said, 'I wish I had never sent that note to my dad yesterday. It hurts me deeply, and I know it will break his heart when he reads it. I'd give 50 dollars to get it back!' Taking the envelope from my pocket, I handed it to him and told him what I had done. He was so overjoyed that he actually wanted to pay me the 50 dollars!" A quick temper can bring many regrets.

### **A Moments Wisdom**

--A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him.

--Some "deep" preachers aren't really deep; they just muddy the water so much that you can't see the bottom of the creek.

--When it's foggy in the pulpit, it's cloudy in the pew.

--The backslider likes preaching that wouldn't hit the side of a barn, while the real disciple is delighted when the truth brings him to his knees.