



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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OH TO THE JOY OF GOD'S UNIVERSE

I WILL BE HOME BY MYSELF UNTIL NEXT TUESDAY WHILE LIZ AND THE BOYS ARE AT HER PARENTS' HOUSE, AND WHILE I COULDN'T SLEEP AGAIN LAST NIGHT I HAD AN IDEA. I WAS LYING ON OUR COUCH AND I KEPT HEARING LOW-FLYING AIRPLANES; LOWER THAN USUAL IT SEEMED. SO I DECIDED THAT I WOULD CRAWL OUT THE UPSTAIRS WINDOW ONTO OUR BREEZEWAY ROOF (THE NEXT TIME YOU PULL INTO THE CHURCH JUST LOOK OVER AND YOU WILL SEE WHAT I MEAN). IT IS LOW ENOUGH THAT IF I FALL OFF OF IT I WON'T BE HURT TOO BADLY, BUT IT IS ALSO FLAT ENOUGH THAT I COULD LAY ON IT WITH RELATIVE COMFORT AND GAZE AT THE STARS.

NOW, BEING IN THE CITY, IT IS HARD TO SEE THAT MANY STARS BECAUSE OF THE "LIGHT POLLUTION" BUT I WAS WILLING TO STILL LIE OUT THERE BECAUSE I WAS THERE TO SEE AIRPLANES.

MY WIFE LIKES TO CALL ME CHARLIE BROWN BECAUSE MOST OF MY "GOOD IDEAS" DON'T WORK OUT FOR ME WHILE THEY SEEM TO WORK FOR EVERYONE ELSE. I DIDN'T SEE ANY MORE AIRPLANES ONCE I CRAWLED OUT THE WINDOW: ALTHOUGH I DID SEE THE FLASHING LIGHTS OF A CRUISING 747 AT 30,000 FEET. WHAT WAS INTERESTING ABOUT THAT IS ONCE I FOCUSED MY EYES ON THAT LITTLE FLASHING LIGHT, MY EYES LOST THE FOCUS OF THE "LIGHT POLLUTION" AND I COULD SEE MORE AND MORE STARS (STILL NOT AS MANY AS YOU WOULD SEE IN UTAH).

IT WAS INTERESTING TO SEE MORE AND MORE OF GOD'S WONDER WHEN I JUST KEPT LOOKING UP AND GAZING INTO WHAT HE HAS GIVEN US.

I BELIEVE "LIGHT POLLUTION" IS A GOOD PHRASE. WE IN THE BIG CITIES HAVE BUILT SO MANY LIGHTS TO SEE IN THE DARK (WHICH ISN'T A BAD IDEA) THAT WE HAVE HINDERED OUR ABILITY TO FULLY ENJOY THE STARS. I BELIEVE IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL WE CAN DO THAT IN OUR WALK WITH CHRIST AS WELL. WE CAN FILL OUR LIVES WITH SO MANY OBSTACLES, ACTIVITIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT WE HAVE POLLUTED WHAT OUR REAL VISION SHOULD SEE. WE HAVE POLLUTED WHAT OUR LIVES COULD BE.

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS ON SUNDAY BUT II CORINTHIANS 3:18 SAYS, "BUT WE ALL, WITH UNVEILED FACE, BEHOLDING AS IN A MIRROR THE GLORY OF THE LORD, ARE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY, JUST AS FROM THE LORD, THE SPIRIT."

ISN'T IT TIME WE TAKE THE VEIL OFF? ISN'T IT TIME WE DESIRE TO SEE MORE? ISN'T IT TIME WE LONG TO BE ACTIVE IN THE JOY OF GOD'S UNIVERSE INSTEAD OF JUST BEING A PART OF IT?

IT WAS A STRAIN ON MY EYES TO LOOK THAT INTENTLY AT SOMETHING THAT WAS INTENDED TO BE SEEN WITH EASE. WHAT IF WE LOOKED AT PEOPLE THE SAME WAY WE ENJOY LOOKING AT THE STARS? WHAT IF WE LOOK AT PEOPLE THE SAME WAY CHRIST DID? YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN AND YOU SEEK AFTER THE LOST.

I BELIEVE THE STARS WERE GIVEN:

To SHOW THE GLORY AND CREATIVITY OF GOD

SO WE HAVE A CONTINUAL IMAGE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY (LET'S NOT COVER THAT UP)

PASTOR ANDY