

Fort Payne church of Christ



The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

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What Do You See?

Corey Sawyers



Fighting and unrest cause tension in the Middle East. Domestic protests about U.S. soldiers' involvement overseas escalates. Racial riots litter the headlines. Music stars rally for "love." Troubles abound politically in Greece. No, these are not the headlines for 2015. They are the headlines for 1967. 51 years ago the country's headlines and news stories sounded as bleak and depressing as today's do. Yet, in the midst of 1967, Louis "Louie" Armstrong released what has been my favorite song for some time. The lyrics of ***What A Wonderful World*** are beautiful and belie the tumultuous condition of the world and country in which he lived ...

*I see trees of green, red roses, too,
I see them bloom, for me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world.
I see skies of blue, and clouds of white,
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world.
The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky,
Are also on the faces of people going by.
I see friends shaking hands, sayin', "How do you do?"
They're really sayin', "I love you."
I hear babies cryin'. I watch them grow.
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world*

How could such words be written and sung during a stormy time? Notice, eleven times he says, "I see," "I hear," or "I watch." He follows each of these with, "I think to myself." You see, it was not **WHAT** he saw that mattered as much as **HOW** he saw. He chose to look at the bright side, the good side, the best things.

There has been much wringing of hands and articles written about the desperate situation in which the church finds herself. Many have declared the dismal prospects of what Christians will face in the coming days and years. While I realize there are real problems in the world today, I still must ask, "Why are we so gloomy?" First, we do not know what will happen in the future. For all we know, there may be a grand turn toward truth! Second, even if we do face tough times, even extremely rough times, should that make us downtrodden and sad?

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego declared that God could deliver them (Daniel 3). However, they added, if He did not, He was still God! No less than Paul and Silas sang praises and prayed after being beaten and thrown in jail (Acts 16). The Bible is literally littered with seemingly awful situations Godly men and women found themselves. Yet how many times did those turn out to be times of great victory and growth (think Ruth, Esther, Job, the First Century church, etc.)? God is still in charge! Jesus is still on His throne!

The key is **HOW** do we see the situation we are in? Will we look at the problems around us, stick our heads in the ground, and pitifully wait for the return of the Lord? Or will we be happy, excited, and encouraged that we are God's children? Will we see great opportunities to serve God by sharing GOOD NEWS when so many around us need it? Will we see the victory has already been won by Jesus?

Will we see gloom and doom? Or, will we think to ourselves ... "What A Wonderful World!"

Yes, I think to myself ... What a wonderful world ... Oh Yeah!

Think about it.

Here's hoping you'll make the "*most of your minutes*" this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study tonight.

In Christian Love,

Bob Strickland