

“Jesus is Fairer”

I just returned yesterday (Monday) from a four-day, three-night stay with my family at a resort on Lake Whitney. Now, when I say “resort,” don't get the idea that it was anything fancy. As a matter of fact, it is really anything BUT fancy. We rented cabins, brought and cooked our own meals, and played games of washers and Yahtzee. Not exactly plush, but it was absolutely wonderful. It gave all of us an opportunity to commune with God's creation, spend time with family, and get some much needed rest.

It became obvious to all of us how much God has blessed us. We saw again the great love we have for each other, love placed in our hearts by our Creator. We saw His handiwork all around us: The beauty of the place: the green grass and flowers brought to life by the abundant rains we have had lately, the peacocks with hens and chicks in tow, even the power of the storm we experienced Sunday afternoon – all evidence of God's love for us.

Still, although overwhelmingly beautiful, God's creation pales to the beauty of His Son and Jesus' affect on all of us. One of my favorite hymns tells of His beautiful gift. Written in 17th century Germany, and translated by Joseph A. Seiss in 1873, “Fairest Lord Jesus” tells of His love for us and the love and gratitude we have for Him.

“Fairest Lord Jesus! Ruler of all nature! O Thou of God and man the Son! Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.”

Another verse, not found in our hymnals, says precisely what I'm trying to say:

“All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly, Wondrously, Jesus, is found in Thee; none can be nearer, fairer or dearer, than Thou, my Savior, art to me.”

What we see us is a gift given to us by our God and created by and through our Savior Jesus Christ. (**John 1:3, Colossians 1:15-16**) God's gift of his Son is the greatest gift ever given. When we see His creation, praise Him for our forgiveness, redemption and hope.

