

Week of June 17 – 23

Today's devotional-writer is Kurt Verderber. Kurt serves on our Board of Elders and is a professor at SUNY Cobleskill.

WITHOUT EXCUSE

Scripture Reading: Read Romans chapter 1

One of my favorite movies is “K-PAX,” the tale of a psychiatric patient named Prot (played by Kevin Spacey) who claims to be from a distant planet (K-PAX). A large portion of the movie consists of dialogue between Prot and the psychiatrist trying to reach him, Dr. Mark Powell (played by Jeff Bridges). In one particular exchange, Dr. Powell asks him how K-PAX-ians know the difference between right and wrong. Probably unbeknownst to the film’s writers, Prot gives the following (very true) answer: “Every being in the universe knows the difference between right and wrong, Dr. Powell.”

This is actually a very biblical response...Paul, speaking of godless and wicked men, tells us in Rom 1:19-20 that “...since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

He shows further in verses 14 and 15 that the requirements of the law have been “written on the hearts of men.” Paul understood that God designed all of us with a conscience; an inherent knowledge of *the Moral Code*. And it is often through the lens of creation that we perceive that Code.

David shared the same thoughts in Psalm 19. “The heavens declare the glory of God and the skies proclaim the work of his hands...there is no speech or language where their voice is not heard...” And then notice this...after showing the persistent presence of God’s creation in verses 1 – 6, what does David begin talking about in verse 7? Yep – the Law of the Lord: that Moral Code that is written on all of our hearts.

In his message on June 3rd, Pastor Ray gave a list of life topics we can use to ‘build a bridge’ with unbelievers...a starting point to begin sharing the gospel message. Tying these two basic principles together, we have yet another way to reach the lost by using God’s creation as that starting point.

I don’t know a person (Christian or not) who isn’t touched by a beautiful sunset, or a large full moon. We all stand amazed at the majesty of creation – the mountains, the waterfalls, storms, constellations, picturesque vistas! It’s my opinion that one of the most receptive moments an unbeliever has is when she is staring out into the almost infinite beauty of space. Humanity beholds God’s creation and the law written on our hearts speaks. *We all know!* And those who say they don’t are without excuse.

Action Step: The next time you hear your “neighbor” speak about something awesome in nature, build a bridge from creation to Creator.

Prayer Focus: Pray for opportunities – those Holy Spirit moments – to share the gospel message with the unbelievers around you.

Take-a-way: *Humanity beholds his creation & the law written on our hearts speaks.*