

Color my World

This is the time of year when I am just amazed at the beauty of the colors that are so visible over the hills and valleys of southwest Wisconsin. It is breathtaking on some of these days when the sun is shining amidst a few snowy white clouds and a vividly blue sky. My wife and I have had the privilege of traveling to many places in this great country, but there are few locations that can compare to the beauty of this place we call home. Next time you are out and about, take a minute and really look at the number of shades of the color green that can be seen across the fields. Every plant has a little different tint. The cornfields, soybeans, alfalfa, mixed in with patches of woodland containing evergreens, oaks, maples, walnut, and cottonwood trees is just absolutely stunning. Not to mention the tans and browns of the corn tassels, wheat, rye, oats, and barley fields. Like I said, it is simply awesome to behold, but sometimes we aren't looking like we should.

In my small dairy herd, I have a variety of colors as well, that I find fascinating. There is the classic black and white Holsteins with their many distinct and unique patterns on display. Then there is the golden brown of my Brown Swiss cow, the chocolate browns of the jerseys, the dark maroon of my shorthorn cow, and finally the bright red of my red and white Holsteins. I have all of these varieties in my herd and I enjoy the diversity and individuality of each animal. I almost forgot the midnight black of my angus cows as well.

Even though life has thrown us a few curve balls the last few months, the beauty and creativity of God has not been disrupted in the least. I find it extremely comforting to know that God is still on the throne of heaven with open arms for mankind to really notice and look at all that He has created for our pleasure. He also is calling us to open up our hearts to the free gift He has given to each and every person on the planet who will simply believe in Him. Most people I talk to have this idea that if they have any hope of heaven someday, it will be because they somehow have done enough good things to get there. This is so opposite of what the Bible says. In the scriptures we learn right from the start that there is nothing we can do to earn God's favor, so He provided the way for us to be saved. He did it all.

First of all, He came into our world as a human. He became a man. I love learning how Jesus actually healed thousands and thousands of people when He walked this earth. He showed His tremendous love for mankind in this way. Then He topped it off by dying for us. He took our punishment so that we could receive God's favor through faith in His son. The only thing we must do is believe this is true and the gift of salvation is ours. 2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us that *He who was sinless, (Jesus Christ) became sin for us, so that we might become righteous in Him.*

The beauty of God's creation is nothing compared to the beauty of salvation in the heart of a true believer in Jesus. He wants to turn your world into something amazing if you will let Him. Just place your faith and trust in Him today and you will experience His incredible favor. Until next week, God bless.