

## REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 8/27/18

***"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."***

***- 1 Jn. 3:2***



You are looking at the business end of a caterpillar of the banded tussock moth. They are distinguished by the prominent black tufts of hair protruding from both their fronts and backs. The front of the caterpillar has white tufts as well. The mouth you see is capable of devouring a remarkable amount of leaves from deciduous trees. I photographed this one crawling on some lichen by a large oak tree. A very interesting caterpillar to look at, but like all caterpillars it will soon change. The moth that this fellow will transform into will look nothing like the caterpillar it came from. Believers in Jesus have one thing in common with this caterpillar. We too will change, and the change will be profound. Scripture reveals very little about what that change will look like, but the few clues it does give are amazing. For one thing we will be, at least in some way, like Jesus. Our bodies will be transformed into something too glorious for words. Sin, pain, and death will be no more. I sometimes imagine what it will be like. I imagine myself exploring a world as it was before it was corrupted by sin, a world where man and nature live in harmony. But most of all, I long to see Jesus, to know him intimately, to worship him fully. I want to walk and talk again with my mother and father, to thank the men and women of faith who have gone on before me and mentored me, to understand what I now am incapable of understanding. What wonders await those who have put their trust in Jesus! But the reason one should become a Christian is not primarily to receive such marvelous blessings, it is to know and glorify God. All the other benefits are secondary. This caterpillar has nothing on us. To ignore or refuse such blessings is more than foolish. It is to choose wrath rather than grace. - John