

REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 4/9/18



Sometimes all you need is a full stomach and a favorite place to lie down and rest. I photographed this black bear (remember, black bears are not always black) at the Vince Shute bear sanctuary in northern Minnesota, a sanctuary where wild bears can enter and leave as they wish and know they will be safe. This guy had just finished eating, the sun was shining, and apparently this rock felt like a good warm place to snuggle up next to. He let me photograph him for quite awhile with only an occasional glance in my direction. He was unafraid of me, and I honestly was unafraid of him. Much can be learned about the natural world and the God who created it all if we only take the time and have the heart to learn. This fellow wasn't consumed with the things that consume most humans. He was content with the things God had given him. He wasn't fighting or contending with other bears, although there were other bears nearby. He was happy just to live and let live. Man is the creature that wants more than he needs, that constantly worries about things he can't control, and who subordinates others just to make himself look better. And man, to his everlasting shame, is the one who, although made in the image of God, has a legacy of mistreating and even eradicating the creatures God has entrusted to his care. Oh, that we would be content with what God has given us, that we would see the wonder of the natural world for the blessing it is. Yes, there is much we can learn from creatures such as black bears. Take time to look into the eyes of this fellow. He has much to teach you about the One who is both his Lord and yours. - John