

## REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 6/25/18

***"But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."***

***- James 1:14-15***



This is the caterpillar of the tussock moth, an interesting little fellow easily identified by the four yellow tufts which protrude from its body. Jo found this guy on our property and suggested I photograph it. Perhaps we are a little strange, but we both thought this caterpillar was quite beautiful with its striking colors and flowing hairs along its body. But this is one insect that is to be

admired but not touched. Those silky hairs are sharp and spiked with poison. The result of touching is a very painful rash in humans and death for other smaller creatures. Sometimes outward beauty can hide destruction. Not only does this caterpillar pose a danger to those who touch it, but its voracious appetite is a danger to many kinds of trees. The tussock moth and its relative the gypsy moth account for the destruction of many forests if left unchecked. Jo, who for some reason has no reluctance to pick up and handle any number of insects, chose to leave this one alone. It wasn't until later when we had researched this caterpillar that we found out we were wise to not pick it up. Sin is like this. We sin because we are enticed to, because it is so attractive to our lusts. But the results, if left unchecked, end in spiritual death. That is the sequence, first desire, then sin, then death. It is so hard for us to forego immediate satisfaction. Spiritual maturity denies short-term pleasures for eternal rewards. And the amazing thing is that if we learn to shun ungodly pleasures, we will find more fulfilling pleasures now as well as in eternity. Kind of like having your cake and eating it too. Just be sure the kind of cake you eat contains no hidden poison. - John