

REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 10/22/18

"Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?" - Rom. 2:3



I was watching a hillside where deer occasionally visit when, just as the sun was setting, this buck suddenly appeared near me. As he slowly walked by me, pausing frequently to feed, I managed to capture an image when he stood still. But he didn't stay still for long. At the faint sound of the shutter tripping on my camera, he exploded into flight. I got this shot as he passed through a patch of sunlight and then he was gone. Some animals use camouflage to avoid danger, some attack when threatened, but deer run to escape. It is how God equipped them to survive threatening situations. There is a coming situation, however, from which no man can flee. When God comes in judgment there will be no escape. Most people today think little about this if they think about it at all. After all, isn't God a God of love and forgiveness? And so everyone, it seems, is going to heaven. The Bible paints a different picture. We all have sinned against God. We all have rebelled and continue to rebel against His commandments. We all have earned the just wrath of a holy God. It is a sobering thing to come before the Lord in judgment. And really, there are only two alternatives. We can stand before Him on our own merits, or clothe ourselves with the merits of Another. What we all deserve is condemnation, and the reason we think we don't is because we compare ourselves with one another. That is like one pig bragging that he isn't as dirty as his neighbors. When judged by the strict edge of God's law, we all fall woefully short. Sin must be dealt with. Justice must be served. What makes the gospel good news is that it provides a way of escape for sinners. As the old hymn says, "*When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found, dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.*" Sure beats trying to escape by running. - John