

varied as the societies from which they sprang. Was God a nurturing mother, a kindly grandfather, or an avenging warrior, was more a reflection of the culture from which the argument arose than the truth of the statement.

Lest we become overly critical, the same can be said of an informed culture attempting to reshape God into their own image. All we need to evidence that notion is to ask ourselves how God feels about any particular notion and usually the answer tells us more about the person making the statements than it does about God. Questions about materialism, nationalism or our currently popular questions about the transgendered and “gay marriage” issues will tell us much.

While the Psalmist tells us that the “heavens declare the glory of God and the skies display his craftsmanship,” any argument about the character of God from nature is quickly faulty. Questions asked about God while floating on the Ohio River in a peaceful afternoon are much different than the ones asked about God after a raging flood.

Paul rightly tells us that we can only understand two things about God by observation of nature. We know that he must be all powerful and that he must be eternal. Is he good or bad, compassionate or vindictive, or any other contrast can only be explained through a revelation. We have two revelations of God that inform us. The first is the written, recorded word of God that we call Scripture. The second is revealed within the character of Jesus. Mankind struggled, powerfully attempting to understand who God was and what he expected for generations. God would intervene in dreams, visions, or manifestations of power to various individuals throughout history. However, when Jesus came, our vision cleared.

I am unapologetic in declaring that all things come back to Jesus. I noted it on the porch this morning. I think, if you take the time, you will reach the same conclusion.

*Grace and Peace,*

St John Church of Christ  
609 N Pearl  
P. O. Box 241  
St John, KS 67576

*Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.*



St John Church of Christ  
A Family of God

July 5, 2015



Each morning of this past weekend I've spent on the porch of a cabin in the Smoky Mountains. As I've watched the clouds dance among the trees and creep along the valley, I was reminded of some of the various arguments for the existence of God. Plato and Fyodor Dostoyevsky are known for their argument for the existence of God based on beauty. These are not the most powerful arguments from my point of view, but they resonate when one is quietly reflecting on a beautiful, unfamiliar scene.

I sat imagining how early witnesses to the scene must have reflected on how it came to be. While I am not going to try to trace the history of the understanding of God to the peoples of the area, I am confident that the beauty did cause others to sit back and reflect.

Something from nothing, or the idea of no crafting hand with an eye toward how things are shaped together, is untenable. Your mind naturally moves to how it happened, then naturally to God. The imaginings of men over what that God must be like are as