



Jenny Lake, Grand Tetons

SMALL GROUP LESSON
WHAT WE KNOW ALREADY
ROMANS 1: 18-21
OCTOBER 9, 2016

Throughout the pages of the Bible and down through the centuries of Christian history, many of God's most influential leaders have had life changing encounters with the Lord when they were outdoors. These include individuals such as Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Ezekiel, and Paul in the Bible and St. Augustine, Martin Luther, Jonathan Edwards, and Billy Graham in Christian history. Each of these people and, indeed, countless thousands of others encountered God's presence through His creation. In fact, on a starlit night as you gazed into the heavens, you too may have come to the same conclusion as did Paul when he wrote, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). Based upon this verse of Scripture and other passages of Scripture that the pastor refers to in his sermon, two questions arise that we should consider in this week's lesson.

1. How has God chosen to reveal Himself, to make Himself known unto us, through His creation? The pastor mentions at least three ways in which this has taken place, and perhaps there is a fourth in Romans 2:14-15. Take a few moments to read his sermon on the church's website and the passages of Scripture to which he refers before you answer this question. You might also want to delve into what Paul meant when he spoke about "God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature." What was he talking about when he used this phrase?
2. Why do you think we as human beings have had and continue to have such a difficult time acknowledging the divine origin of the universe? Indeed, this is at the heart of the continuing debate between evolution and creation. The debate is really not about how the universe came into existence but rather who or what brought it into existence. It seems that we will go to almost any lengths to deny God's participation or even existence with regards to the creation of the universe, especially if He is viewed from the Christian perspective. Why is that? Take a look at Romans 1:21 and see if you can come up with an answer to this perplexing question.