

A few years ago I saw a peaceful scene. Three swans floated serenely in a large pond. A black duck ventured into the water beside them. One of the swans immediately pounced upon it and bit it vigorously. Shrieking with fear, the duck rushed to the land.

A girl who was studying in a school of social service was standing near. Horror-stricken, she exclaimed in surprise, "Why, that's anti-social!"

Yes, nature is anti-social. Something is wrong with it. No 9
Romans 8.18-25 explains why. It groans in pain, because it is under the curse which man's sin brought upon the world.

This groaning is not for ever. The suffering of nature and the misery of humanity will both come to an end. This will not be the result of human planning, but of a remedy which goes to the bottom of the trouble. Only God can supply that remedy.

Romans 8.21 tells us that the creation itself shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. All the strife and suffering that is in the brute creation will be ended, and peace and joy will be universal. The rule of war and hatred in the world will be finished, and universal peace and happiness introduced. This will be brought about by the return of Christ to set up his reign of perfection upon the earth, and to root out all that is harmful.

What will happen to you, dear reader, when this occurs? Are you part of the evil that must be rooted out, if ~~the~~ world is to experience peace and joy? You may be sure that this is the case, if you have not received Jesus Christ into your heart for salvation from sin.

Or are you one who has received Him, and been turned from darkness to light because of what He did at Calvary? If so you still groan with nature, enduring the evil of the present age (Romans 8.23). Yet you have the first-fruits of the Spirit, and you know that when He comes all groaning will be over. You look forward with longing anticipation to that day of world-wide happiness, and in the meantime you experience within your heart that peace and joy which He alone can give.

Without the Bible life seems to be a tragedy of great hopes dashed in the face of stern realities. The Bible gives the clue to the mystery, and shows its solution in the perfect plan of God.

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