

MOON RAINBOWS (This World Is Not My Home)

I remember back in my college days, I was not the least bit afraid to die. There were a couple of specific instances where there was potential I could have lost my life. In those moments, I remember calmly praying to God that if this was it, I was ready to see Him face to face. I kind of looked forward to it! I embraced Rich Mullins' commentary on Phil. 1:21 long before he had written it. His interpretation of "*For me to live is Christ and to die is gain*" was the following: "*You should be happy you're alive but look forward to being dead.*" I confess to you that as I've gotten older, I am not as thrilled about dying as I used to be!

As I have pondered this change in my philosophical outlook, I think it might be because now I actually have my own home, a wonderful wife, relatively good health, and I do really enjoy living! I fear I've gotten so attached to this world that I'm not looking forward to being in Heaven as much as I used to.

On the other hand, I am distressed by all that is happening in our crazy world, but exponentially more distressed by the way some "Christians" are acting in response to the world's zaniness. In fact, I am having trouble reconciling that some Christians are actually causing a lot of the wackiness. I was reading a book describing some beautiful outdoor scenery, which made me feel closer to God. I thought I would go out into our backyard and look up into the twilight sky. As I gazed up, I started to ponder what was happening in our world that was making me distraught. No matter what your thoughts are about Covid, I believe all of us can agree that we have never seen anything like this in our entire lifetime. This pandemic is affecting the entire world like nothing I have ever seen! It reminds me of some of the science fiction movies that came out when I was younger. Except when the aliens attacked, the whole world united together to try to defeat them. There were no countries that decided to turn their back on the rest of humanity to become allies of the aliens. After all, maybe the alien planet had gold on it and we could become rich if we sided with the aliens! As devastating as it is to have a pandemic killing so many, it is equally devastating to see that people cannot unite and come together in fighting it. My main goal is to stay alive . . . or is it? Maybe I have another home I should be longing for.

I know my friend Rich Mullins sincerely longed to be with God, in His presence. Some of these thoughts has been spurred by the fact that the preacher I've possibly listened to more than any since I have lived here in

Southern California, Ray Bentley, just passed away a few days ago of Covid. He was a few months younger than me but not vaccinated like I am. One of my favorite quotes by Ray was: *"God is not the means to our treasure, He is our treasure!"*

So as I lay outside looking up at the sky, I started to wonder why God is allowing all this to happen. Couldn't He just have created us in a heavenly state without pain, sorrow, and tears? Or is it possible that maybe He wants us to experience the frustration, the pains, the tears of this life so we do look forward to something much better? I started to remember back to those college days when I longed for Heaven and to be in closer relationship with God, my Creator. As I was pondering all of this, I focused a bit more on the sky and what was happening before my very eyes. As the stars were just beginning to appear, I noticed that the moon was brightly illuminating the clouds nearby. Then in one of those hard-to-describe, rare, magnificent moments, I saw a circular rainbow form around the moon. It was spectacular, beautiful, magnificent, and calming all at the same moment. It almost looked like an *"eye of God"* looking down on me.

Here is a Google rendering of what I saw . . .



It was a stark reminder of God's presence with you and me through these dark days. I was also reminded of what one of the most influential songwriters in my early days as a young Christian wrote in one of his songs. *Larry Norman* profoundly said, *"This world is not my home, I'm just passing through."* I believe we need to do all we can to promote peace and harmony in this crazy world while we are still here. But all this craziness has also reminded me that this world is not my home. As *Randy Stonehill* humorously wrote: *"Stop the planet, I want to get off!"* Maybe all this is happening to make us look forward to Heaven and focus on the things that will last for

eternity. I need to, as Paul states, not look to the things that are seen which are temporary, but to the things unseen, which are eternal (II Cor. 4:18).

"If I find in myself in myself a desire which no experience in this life can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

~ C. S. Lewis

"Truly, whoever can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities. If the God-given understanding of your mind does not resist a demand to believe what is impossible, then you will not resist a demand to do wrong to that God-given sense of justice in your heart." ~ Voltaire