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A Weekly Devotional from the
South Green Street Church of Christ

Mother Nature

by Steve Higginbotham

Last Saturday, my two boys and I were together in the van. I was listening to the radio and the boys were simply being quiet. Then from the back of the van, my six year old boy broke the silence and said, "Dad, why do people give Mother Nature credit for all the beautiful things God does?" To say the least, I was taken back by the question. I didn't even know that he had ever heard the expression, "Mother Nature."

But how insightful? I never cease to be amazed at what children say. I didn't know quite how to answer his question. Why do we refer to the works of "Mother Nature" rather than the works of God? Is it an effort to avoid offending someone? Is it intended to disguise our faith in God? Or is it just a phrase we've picked up that has not theological significance intended?

Whatever the case may be for our use of the term, don't you think more glory and honor would be directed to God if instead of talking about what "Mother Nature" does, we talked about what God does?

- Instead of talking about how Mother Nature takes care of the animals during the cold Winter months, wouldn't it be more honoring to God to talk about how God takes care of the animals during the Winter?
- Instead of talking about the beautiful sunset Mother Nature gave us, wouldn't it be more honoring to God if we talked about the beautiful sunset God gave us?
- Instead of talking about how Mother Nature brings about the beautiful change of the seasons, wouldn't it be more honoring to God if we talked about how God causes the change of the seasons?

You get the idea. By using a little care in our language, we not only can give God the praise and glory that is rightfully his, but at the same time we may, by the change in our language, open doors to further discussion about God with others.

I can't help but wonder if the innocence of a six year old made him wonder why we give "Mother Nature" credit for the beautiful things God does, then do you suppose God ever wonders the same thing?