

*"He hath made every thing beautiful **in His time**: also He hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end." Ecclesiastes 3:11 KJV*



Not every lovely thing starts lovely and not everything that starts lovely ends that way. Physical beauty is transitory, no matter what form it takes. All ends in death. The peak of perfection is determined by God in *"His"* time, including circumstances and events. The most beautiful buildings in the world are always made more beautiful by the addition of the beauty and fragrance of flowers. However, the flowers fade and are replaced. Even if left on the plant they will wilt and wither away. Some of the comeliest children grow up to be stunningly attractive, but time erases all vestiges of their beauty. Everything under the sun is temporary, including mountains, which will one day disappear before the face of God's wrath. *"And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found."* I believe that will be a wonder to behold, to watch islands scurry away like mice caught in the corn crib. God has promised eternal life and beauty to those that trust and obey His Word. We may not be much in the eye of the beholder now, but someday we'll receive eternal bodies to match our eternal souls and spirits. *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when [Christ] shall appear, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall see Him as He is."* We will "bloom" forever in the "Sonlight" of heaven. Don't be too quick to evaluate a person based on a first impression. Some of us are intuitive enough to make those decisions, but most of us are not. Some flowers only blossom under the gentle glow of moonlight, their fragrance the only evidence of their existence. They remain completely anonymous to all except those few who are close enough to breathe the faintly lingering smell of their blossoms. Others bloom best in the bright heat of the noonday sun, and close their petals when darkness comes. Some will not bloom at all unless severely pruned. Some only bloom once every 100 years. The most beautiful treasure we hold as believers, is the Light of the glorious Gospel of Christ. It's not important how attractive we are. It's how attractive we make the Gospel by our obedience. We are called the salt of the earth, because it's our job to make men thirst for the Living Water, Jesus Christ. *"Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it?"* You can't salt, salt! *"Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."* What is the "mind" of God? His Word! Faithful obedience to God's Word is what makes believers "salty." We are to live in such a way as to attract the longing of the thirsty. It's not hard to convince a thirsty man to drink. We must seek the thirsty and give them drink. All believers will be beautiful *"in His time."*

True loveliness for all to see,
The Lord decides when it will be,
He turns to light all comeliness,
Of souls that plead for righteousness. ~CGP

We will be transformed in the *"twinkling of an eye."* It will certainly be wonderful to see familiar faces when we finally gather around the Throne of God. You say, "But, we'll have new bodies!" Paul the Apostle told us that we'll *"know as we are known."* If I knew you here, I'll know you there, only we'll both be much more attractive!

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." 1 John 3:2 KJV