



THE HIGH PLAINS PREACHER

Welcome to the High Plains Preacher, stories about the Bible, high wind, fast horses, lack of moisture and other elements of life in the Texas Panhandle

An Eye for Beauty

The father of a friend of mine died last week. The man's name was Eldon and he ran a feed and veterinary supply store in Friona.

The hallway to Eldon's office at the Veterinary Supply Company was lined with 8x10 prints of photographs he had taken of life West Texas. Eldon had an eye for beauty but his artwork conveyed more than beautiful landscapes. The scenes he captured on film contained more than color and perspective. They also revealed his love and reverence for the people of his town, the virtue of hard work and the neighborly cooperation and community spirit that so characterizes rural life in this part of the country.

In addition to the prints hanging in the hallway of the feed store, Eldon also published a yearly calendar. Each month of the year featured a print of one of his photographs, many of which illustrated some scene or event from around Friona. Needless to say, the calendars were very popular.

A wise theologian once said, "When we no longer recognize beauty, we will soon forget how to pray." Eldon's photographs are beautiful and their beauty reflects the beauty of the Creator. How fortunate we are to have artists in our midst.

Eldon, the owner and manager of a feed store, was indeed an artist. He looked at the world around him and saw the beauty of God's light shining brilliant in the Texas sunsets, breaking through the clouds, dancing on the prairie flowers and sparkling the surface of water in rusted cattle tanks. He saw the smile of God in the faces of people gathered together for community dinners and stock shows.

If we could but take one of Eldon's calendars, chose just one month, gaze at the picture, then go through the days of that month reflecting on the beauty and goodness that each day offers, how much closer we would grow to God during the rest of days remaining on the calendar of our own individual lives?

If one ordinary man can help us see beauty in this life, how much more can we see the hope of Glory in the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Eternal rest grant unto Eldon, O Lord. And may perpetual light shine upon him.