

“Philosophical Ponderings” Series

***“Well, I must endure the presence of a few caterpillars
if I wish to become acquainted with the butterflies.”***

“The Little Prince” Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The Fall and back to school TEDDY TALK series of 2023 begins this first Sunday in September. Each of us likely have a certain philosopher that means much in our daily living. Over the past few years writing these TALKs, I have often quoted Seneca. He is my favorite but truly only one among many. I am fascinated by the words from great intellectuals, and I enjoy weaving their thoughts and mental concepts into the words we have and know from Judeo-Christian perspectives. The Chrysalis of words from Moses and Abraham to the New Testament writings from the Disciples, Paul, and words from Jesus enlighten us more when in conjunction with philosophers.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s book *The Little Prince* is his most popular and best-known work. The form of the book is rather like a tale for children reading, but it is focused for adults. His words I quoted to lead my time with you today is about endurance and sought after exposure to nature. I like to think of the idea of caterpillars to butterflies as you and me being “fearless” in the face of change and to ensure our lives will continue to move forward.

Every year, monarch butterflies migrate through Texas. With luck they can be seen in flight and in rest. Aboard our boat, we often see them flying across Grapevine lake. It’s not unusual for us to see a hundred or so fluttering by. Before the Gaylord Texan was built, there was a tree in the wooded area that seemed to attract the Monarchs. The single tree would often have a few thousand or so covering the branches. Each year, Sandy and I trekked through the woods just to see if they returned. She has pictures. For several days, we would see none. Then like magic the tree was to be in motion from their movements. It truly a beautiful gift from God.

Like the Monarchs moving from caterpillars to butterflies, we all experience changes in life for ourselves and in other people. When that happens, I find the motivation to redirect my life. Know when the local tree is gone, with it the Monarchs disappear. The realization is that if we want to have some of one, you and I must put up with the other.

We should know that God has given us a great picture of human life. I’m intrigued by knowing the Greek word for butterfly is “psyche,” meaning, the life of the soul. The caterpillar’s transformation is a symbolic picture of the miracle work of Jesus the Christ in transforming a lost soul into a vibrant believer with a new perspective—God’s perspective. God blesses through the natural order of the universe, and I thank God for all the good we are allowed to encounter in our lives. Let’s search for His presence in all people we meet.

Peace Always

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