

ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL

By Rev. Will Nelken

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King Solomon, one of the wisest men who ever lived, noted this: “[God] has made everything beautiful in its time” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). This word, translated “beautiful,” refers to more than just appearance; rather, it describes the fitness of each thing that God makes (or remakes)—for its purpose, for its place, and for its time.

A song we used to sing expresses this perspective:

*In His time, in His time
He makes all things beautiful
In His time*

*Lord, please show me every day
As You're teaching me Your way
That You do just what You say
In Your time
(Lyrics by Diane Ball)*

Kintsugi

I recently learned about the centuries-old Japanese art of mending broken pottery, known as Kintsugi. The lacquer that is used to reattach broken pieces or fill in the cracks, is first mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. The resulting bond has a striking appearance. Instead of trying to hide the repair, the evidence of brokenness remains as part of the history of the object, but the art makes of it something beautiful, something precious.

The brokenness and wreckage wrought by sin in our lives and relationships is tragic—it is NOT a thing of beauty. But God... Jesus Christ has redeemed our mess and He can repair our mess, if we are not too foolishly ashamed to bring it to Him.

1 John 1:8-10

⁸If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that His word has no place in our hearts.

The punch line of this passage is in the middle: *“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”*