

BEAUTY MISSED

I just can't get enough of "the mountain". You know what I'm talking about; that beautiful piece of artwork created by our awesome God that towers over the Orting valley. Last weekend, and going into Monday, the mountain came out to play and what a sight she was. On Saturday, my family and I were out biking on the Orting trail. I had gotten ahead of my family, so I stopped in front of the city of Orting sign with the mountain in the background to wait. As I gazed at the mountain I just had to capture the moment, so I snapped a picture and it turned out great. I quickly shared it on my social media accounts. One of the places I shared it was on a community blotter sight I am a member of on Facebook. We discuss various issues there and share concerns with one another. The picture got a lot of attention with people admiring the view, but the comments took a quick turn. Soon people were talking about the power lines that "obstruct" the view. Others lamented the increased development that has crowded the valley. A beautiful picture was getting lost in the stuff of this world.

I soon got frustrated and commented, *"Wow, I posted a beautiful scenery picture and the comments have turned to power lines, housing and development. I know I am still new here in town (2 years), and maybe that's why I am still enamored with this picture despite the man-made things in it, but I hope I never get to the point where I miss the beauty of this valley."*

Do you ever miss the beauty in this world in the midst of the "junk"; the proverbial power lines and houses and the like? This world is beautiful and wonderful and mysterious and incredible. This planet we live on and this galaxy we live in is intricately put together in such a way that if just one variable was off by the smallest of fractions, life would not exist. It just takes one variable among hundreds to affect all of life. Now, if that is not incredible, then you are purposely not paying attention.

Now, saying all of this, one cannot say, *"Life just happened. This world just happened to form the way it did."* You cannot, and I repeat, CANNOT say that. To look at this world is to know a beautiful and wonderful and mysterious and incredible God; a God who is FOR YOU. This God created the heavens and the earth. This God formed life. This God sustains life. If God would cease to exist for a millisecond, the universe would also cease to exist, and this God loves YOU through Jesus Christ our Lord. Don't miss the beauty in this world. Don't let hardships and suffering and sin and death distract your view. Look past all of that and gaze on the beauty of God, our awesome creator, who has redeemed you through faith in Jesus. Rain or shine, God is here for you. Enjoy 😊