

Tuesday, March 31

Paint Box of the Mind

by Pastor Hank

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24).

When my daughter was eleven, my wife and I went to a parent/teacher conference at her elementary school. We entered her classroom and squeezed ourselves into kid-size desks. While we waited for the teacher, I looked around the room and noticed that up over the blackboard there was a long, bright, rainbow colored banner stretching the width of the room. Across the banner in large bold, black letters were the words: "Attitude is the paint box of the mind—it colors everything."

I was delighted that the banner would be in front of my daughter's eyes every day for a full school year. I figured that, if she learned nothing more than that, it would be a good year.

What could be truer? Attitude *is* the paint box of the mind and it *does* color everything. If your attitudes are generally negative, your world will be generally dark and negative. If your attitudes are generally positive your world will be generally bright and positive. Attitude really matters.

This is not a new idea. Well over 2000 years ago a Hindu sage observed that: "The world is as you are." If we are generous and kind-hearted, we instill generosity and kindness into the world and we will find generosity and kindness in the world. If we are selfish and mean-spirited, we instill greed and meanness into the world and we find greed and meanness in the world. If we are compassionate and forgiving, the world grows more compassionate and forgiving. If we are uncaring and unforgiving, the world grows more cold and harsh. The world is as we are.

Prayer: Loving God, thank you for this day. Let me rejoice in it, and may my rejoicing fill those whose lives my life touches with joy. Amen.