

## 32. *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

A teacher comforts a young student heartbroken at the death of the family pet. “Is he in heaven now?” comes the probing question. “All good things are in heaven,” the teacher sagely replies. While animals don’t enjoy the same status as humans- as is claimed by some environmentalists, they do still matter to God. The worth of animals is detailed in the Bible, (Exodus 21 and 22) and Jesus insists no bird falls earthward without the Father noticing (Matthew 10:29).

We are to teach our students to steward creation and as custodians care about cruelty to animals. In Eden flora, fauna and humans lived in harmony. Sin meant that animals had to die to provide skins for the first clothes, and from that time forward, all of creation has been waiting for the great restoration. Compassion towards humans is paramount, but for our students to care for the other creatures of our planet is not to give assent to pantheists, or those who see a fetus of a woman of equal value to that of a seal facing culling. Cruelty towards animals can easily spill out into aggression towards those of our species, as the stories of serial killers seem to show. The old hymn is worth teaching to our pupils:



All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
and all things wise and  
wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flow’r that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.

**Romans 8:19** *The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.*

**Romans 8:22** *We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*