

# What A Wonderful World

The single was released in 1968, a year in which America saw curfews as race riots spread from Newark and Detroit to over 100 cities. There were fears of a second civil war. I remember the tension.

The Vietnam War was happening, hence the inspiration for the song. The Vietnam War was a very eventful time in history, causing many deaths of not only soldiers but many innocents too.

The writers of this song saw something greater than what was happening all around them. It's a different point of view. The power of Notice!!!

## **1. Look at God's Work – Notice God's creation and see God's plan.**

***Psalms 8:3-4*** - When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place— 4 what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? NLT

***Psalms 19:1-3*** - The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. 2 Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. 3 They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. NLT

## **2. How do you look at Things?**

- You can always see the bad things.
- Many times we look at today through yesterday's hurts.
- What are you choosing to look at?

***Philippians 4:8*** - And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. NLT

***Philippians 3:13*** - No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, NLT

**Have Selective Memory** – delete destructive memories – put the past behind you. There are some things you are supposed to remember - there are some things you are supposed to forget.

**I heard it said** *"Satan binds us to the past, but Jesus frees you for the future."*

Memories, whether good or bad, must be handled with care. Bad memories can drive us to despair. Good memories can become idols.

**forget** (do not recall information concerning something) or to **neglect** (give little attention to, to omit by design)

**Matthew 6:26-27** - *Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? NKJV*

**Matthew 6:33** - *“If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God’s giving. People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. MSG*

### **3. When things start falling apart, it could be God putting things together.**

**Jeremiah 29:11** - *This is God’s Word on the subject: “As soon as Babylon’s seventy years are up and not a day before, I’ll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. MSG*

Think about the worst day in the Apostle Peter’s life - John - Matthew - The day of the cross - Greatest day ever.. if our hope was only in this world.. Power of the resurrection!

**Hebrews 12:1-3** - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up. NLT*

**God is in control!!!**