

## **My Thoughts for Sunday, 12 June 2016**

### **“The Wonders of God’s Love”**

*“Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:*

*Who created all these?*

*He who brings out the starry host one by one*

*and calls forth each of them by name.*

*Because of his great power and mighty strength,*

*not one of them is missing.”*

### **Isaiah 40:26 (NIV)**

In my senior years I find myself often looking back to the days of my youth. The days I remember in our humble beginnings in our home bordering a large pine forest. There I began, my Mom and Dad, one brother and four sisters, and lots of pets, tame and semi-wild. I remember especially those slow summer evenings. We kids would lie out on our backs on the lawn and watch the heavens unfold right before our eyes. We watched the splendor of our Lord’s creation, the countless millions of stars and planets set in motion by our wondrous God. I guess I did not fully realize then what I am telling you now, as we were not taught much about the God and Lord I have come to love. Back then we could identify the major constellations and formations of stars as labeled by men and were awed by the vast numbers that could not be identified. Today, reading Isaiah’s confession, I am more deeply in awe of the great Creator who made all these things. It is truly amazing that one could call each by its given name and that through all this time none have been lost.

I have some regrets that I was not given more of an introduction and understanding of our Creator. Yet, looking back, I can truly see His direction in my life, although sometimes it appeared from afar. Had I known Him more fully some of my many poor decisions and resultant pitfalls might have been avoided. It seems to me that much of my decision making came about by the seat of my pants. A lot of trial and error and serious bumps in the road. But I praise God that He did direct me, often against my will, to the

place I am at today. Today I can more fully appreciate the words of Isaiah and, though still in awe, I can wonder more fully at the great gifts that we have been given in our lives every day.

As I read this statement from Isaiah I am reminded of a similar statement made by our Lord regarding the believers that God has given into Jesus' hand to receive that ultimate gift of eternal life. John recorded these words from the mouth of our Lord at John 10:28-30; *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."* What great comfort this statement gives me, personally. I, with all the wrong roads I have traveled, all the times I have shunned my Lord through my sin and rebellion, know that I, in no way, deserve or could ever earn this eternal promise. Jesus, my Lord, is speaking of me in the same fashion as Isaiah was confessing the grand knowledge of the everlasting power and greatness of God. Jesus is telling me, and you, that as believers in Him, God the Father has given us to Him to receive that ultimate gift of eternal life in heaven. We can no longer be stolen from His hand or lost in the depravation of this dying and sin-filled world.

In this scripture from John we hear Jesus state that He and God the Father are one. If we look to the prophet Joel we see a further promise regarding our guaranteed future with our Lord. Joel, in prophesying about the end times, those times we are living in today, states this promise from God for our deliverance; *"I will pour out my Spirit on all people...and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Joel 2:28,32 We are given full assurance that God the Father; Jesus, the Son; and the Holy Spirit are working in unison as the Trinity to bring about salvation and eternal life for all who believe in the gift of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Sometimes I long to be back at my edge-of-the-forest-home, to be able to lie in the grass and watch the wonders of God again materialize, but I know one day soon I shall be with my Triune God and will see all His wonders first-hand at His side in the home He is preparing for me. Even now, living in the city with its bright lights drowning out my vision of these wonders, I rest assured they remain and always will be there waiting for the day I am able to see and know them all by name.

Wherever you might be in your relationship with your Lord, know that you too can join me on this road home to be with our Savior. He made it for us all. Come on along!