Daily Devotion #78

Pictures from Home

 *Revelation 21:1-2 –“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.”*

People love to take pictures. And the main reason they do is because “a picture is worth a thousand words”, to use the phrase. Pictures tell stories of people and places so the one who is not able to be there can feel like they are there. Many years ago several photos were taken of my family members on my mother’s side. One in particular is a photo of her and her siblings with their mother. It was taken on a summer day on the shady side of the house where she lived.

The significance of that picture to me is that I have been at that very spot many times, and each time I think about that photo; my mind can smell the smells as if I were there. I can recall the distinct aroma of the boxwoods and the feel of the grass under my bare feet. I can feel the heat of the summer sun and the Virginia humidity. That photo always reminds me of my heritage and the people to whom I belong. There are other photos too. Photos that my wife and I have taken over the years of us and our children. Our family room has pictures of events we did as a family years ago and there are drawings that our kids did while they were growing through the years of kindergarten and middle school and later. And each of those pictures or drawings reminds me of the times of our lives together. Good times. Times that make this life worth living.

But as much as those pictures are great reminders of the events and people of this life. God has given to us several snapshots of our real home, our eternal home. And that is a true blessing because as the Lord teaches us in His Word, when we trust Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are no longer people of this world, but of His heavenly world. That’s why Jesus said we must be born again. (John 3) We are born again in spirit. Where we take on the Spirit of God who comes to live in us so that we begin to live as God’s children and therefore long to go to our true home.

The Lord was very gracious to the Apostle John as he was abandoned by the Roman Emperor on the Isle of Patmos. John was apparently alone and had gone through a great and challenging ordeal because of his service to Jesus. At the time John writes Revelation, he is an old man and most, if not all, of his family and acquaintances are gone. He was alone.

But God didn’t want John to be left in his agony, so He gave him several visions. Visions that would reveal what will happen to the evil people of this world and Satan and all his demonic beings. Those visions reveal the future and how our Lord Jesus will come again and make all things right. He will come and rule with a rod of iron over all who rebel against His righteous authority. Eventually, He will banish Satan to an eternal fire of torment, ridding the people of God of any further pain and suffering by his hands. (Rev 20:13-15)

And the best part - God will redo this planet and the universe as we know it. It will be remade, to be what God originally intended. A place of happiness and joy that existed before Adam and Eve sinned against Him. A place where there will be no more crying, no more sadness because of the evils of this world and the pain that is caused from that evil. It will be a place where we will no longer have to say goodbye to loved ones because death has taken them. (Rev 21:3-4) This will be a place made of 100% pure gold and the walls are made of jasper. And the best part: it will be a city where we will see Christ fully for who He is in all of His glory. (Rev 21:22-23. There will never be night but always brilliant daylight like the midday sun of a beautiful summer day. (Rev 22:5).

Oh beloved, take a look at these pictures often. When you do, you will be reminded of all that is waiting for you. Don’t get lost in the tragedies of this life, but keep your eyes focused on what is coming.