

I have often been moved by the Word of God and recently enjoy seeing the beauty of His works in our world through the changing of the seasons. Time seems to move along so very quickly these days, so I've made an effort to slow down and take time to enjoy the experience of life. Early mornings have been gifted to me this month and as I rise before others in my family, and even before the sun with the shorter days of fall, God is present in these quiet moments.

Proverbs has been a comforting reminder for me:

“The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.
Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)

When I find myself being swallowed up in the social media world full of public opinion, this verse calms my need to insert my opinion thinking I can ‘set them straight’! As fellow followers of Christ, we know who is in control and in fact we know that we are held in the arms of Jesus and protected from the evil one. However, when it comes to the straight path our responsibility is to clear the way and allow the Holy Spirit to lead.

The message this past Sunday was also a comforting reminder of God’s great plan for His creation. I spent some time reading Isaiah 40 and found spiritual rest in these verses:

In my Bible this chapter is entitled: **God’s People Are Comforted**

40 “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!”

Says your God.

² “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her,

That her warfare is ended,

That her iniquity is pardoned;

For she has received from the LORD’s hand

Double for all her sins.”

³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the LORD;

Make straight in the desert

A highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be exalted

And every mountain and hill brought low;

The crooked places shall be made straight

And the rough places smooth;

⁵ The glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

And all flesh shall see *it* together;

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

More comfort from God continues ...

¹¹ He will feed His flock like a shepherd;

He will gather the lambs with His arm,

And carry *them* in His bosom,

And gently lead those who are with young.

We are reminded of God's love for us each time we are in the Word:

²⁸ Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

The everlasting God, the LORD,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,
Neither faints nor is weary.

His understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the weak,
And to *those who have* no might He increases strength.

³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary,

And the young men shall utterly fall,

³¹ But those who wait on the LORD

Shall renew *their* strength;

They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint.

One last verse, from 2 Samuel when King David prays thanksgiving to the Lord:

²² Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For *there is* none like You, nor *is there any* God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

Let this be our praise and gratitude to God as we continue to celebrate thanksgiving during this fall season!

Blessings,

Pastor Charlene McAlpin

broadwayfirstpastor@gmail.com (I'd love to hear from you!)