

1. “..... looking unto Jesus / the hope set before us” (part two) (Hebrews 12:1 & 6:18-19 NKJV)

Hello folks, I'm really grateful for these opportunities to be able to contribute and to André for sorting it all out and presenting it, which I know means a lot of work.

And like the previous time if it's things you know and are established in, it's only that I want to be sure no-one's left out. The most important thing is that The Lord's in it eh ? And I pray that He is and that it will be a blessing.

If you remember in the previous study we were looking at that scripture in Hebrews 12:1 about running the race set before us with patience/endurance .., “*looking unto Jesus*”. That it's not about trying to attain to something but of walking by faith in the finished work of The Lord Jesus, who represented us all in his death and resurrection.

Which is what our Christian walk is all about isn't it ? Believing what God has done for us in Christ .

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings”. (Hebrews 2:9-10 NKJV)

And in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 Paul summarised the Good News like this..., “*Now all things are of God,.....*” So he's making it very clear, salvation wasn't our idea, that it was God's love for us that moved Him to come and save us. With the whole world lost and dead to Him because of sin... and a sinful nature inherited from Adam, He came and rescued us. The Lord described himself as the good Shepherd didn't He ? Who seeks after the lost and would even lay His life down for them.

What does it say in Isaiah ? “*... all we like sheep have gone astray, we've turned every one to his own way and The lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all*”. (Isaiah 53:6 NKJV)

Not that we're sheep in God's sight..., it says, “*all we like sheep...*”. But He made a way for us didn't He? To be restored to God the Father's original plan and purpose, of bringing many sons to glory.

So in 2 Corinthians 5 verse18, Paul says...,

v18-19 “*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is..., that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*”

So irrespective of whether we believe or not, God sent His beloved Son into this world, who as our substitute, laid down His life for us on the cross, bearing all our sin and shame ... and was judged in our place. The issue was settled there once and for all, as far as God is concerned..., in His death and resurrection.

And respecting man's free choice..., scripture tells us that it has pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save those that believe. (1 Corinthians 1:21) .

v20-21 “*Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” (2 Corinthians 5:18-21 NKJV)]

And with words such as ‘*pleading*’ and ‘*imploring*’, you can't help but feel the depth of God's love and the longing behind those words....and the astonishment almost, in the phrase, “*He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*”

Which is the gospel message isn't it ?

That “*..one died for all, therefore all died.... and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NKJV).

2.

Joseph Prince calls it the divine exchange, in that The Lord Jesus, who didn't deserve it, received all our sin and judgment ... and we, who also don't deserve it, receive His Righteousness and Life, when we believe. That in this the love of God is revealed to us.

"...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed". (1 Peter 2:24 NKJV

From start to finish...,our trust and vision if you like, is to be in the one who fully identified with us there.

In the previous study... because of time and not wanting to overload it, I left quite a lot out. So this is pretty much on the same theme, of *"looking to Jesus"*, from the point of view that our identity is completely wrapped up in Him.

And what I felt to look at in particular..., is how through revelation of The Lord Jesus, through the Gospel..., Life is ministered to us when we believe . It's how we are saved in the first instance and it's how we are to walk in Him.

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV)

Because everything about The Lord is life giving. John says that *"in Him was life and the life was the light of men"* (John 1:4 NKJV)

And Paul speaks of The Lord being a life giving Spirit

" And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam [became] a life-giving spirit." (1 Corinthians 15:45 NKJV),

The word ['became'],in brackets, isn't in the original text. The truth is that He is .. and always was God. I'm sure that most of you folks know about these words in brackets but it's worth pointing out, that they are displayed like that, to show that they aren't in the original text but have been added by the translators to help it read better. Unfortunately, sometimes they can be misleading and this one is glaringly wrong.

And Paul goes on to explain that just as we had all the attributes and nature inherited from Adam..., even so, when we believe and are born of God, we are now in the image of The Lord Jesus.

"The first man [was] of the earth, [made] of dust; the second Man [is] the Lord from heaven. As [was] the [man] of dust, so also [are] those [who are made] of dust; and as [is] the heavenly [Man], so also [are] those [who are] heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the [man] of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly [Man]". (1 Corinthians 15:47-49 NKJV)

That old chorus " I am a new creation no more in condemnation", is certainly right on the money eh? Do you still sing that one? It just magnifies The Lord and His finished work.

I expect most of you folks will know John 1:1-4 almost word for word but I'll read it anyway and pick out a few bits from that chapter, save reading it all.

John 1:1-4, NKJV.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ..."

v6-8,

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ...

3.

v10-13, (referring once more to Jesus...)

“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ...”

v17-18

“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

John was given this wonderful insight or revelation concerning The Lord Jesus, that He is The Word of God and that he came in the flesh to die for our sins ... and several things stand out here..., chiefly that everything about Him is life giving and revelatory.

And how it is that through revelation of Himself as our Saviour, that life is imparted to us, through faith.

If you remember the previous time, it was pointed out that...

* We look back and we see the Lord Jesus on the cross, the one who represented us all there ... and through faith we're saved. *“before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified..”* (Galatians 3:1)

* By faith we see him now in glory at the Father's right hand, our Great High Priest who represents us all before The Father... and we are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory by the Spirit of The Lord as we acknowledge our place in him. Learning to be led of The Spirit.

* By faith we look forward to the day when we will finally see him face to face and receive our full eternal inheritance.

In fact there's loads that we could look at here concerning these characteristic feature of The Lord, regarding light, revelation and life and I'm sure you have many scriptures coming to mind just by mentioning it.... but because of time, I thought it best to touch on this only briefly.

“Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high”. (Hebrews 1:3 NKJV).

And from scripture in the Gospel accounts, we can see that in His words and deeds and then ultimately in dying for our sins, He revealed the love and heart of God towards us.

Also in the Old Testament, it was the Spirit of Christ in the prophets that moved them to speak. (1 Peter 1:11). Which of course revealed God's heart, His thoughts, His intentions and things that would be fulfilled and come to pass at a later time. The words of The prophets recorded in scripture for us.

The Word of God ! And for us, this so great salvation from start to finish, is all about revelation of Jesus as our Lord and Saviour... and that, through the preaching of The Gospel.

“Who has believed our report and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed ? (Isaiah 53:1 NKJV) Arm denotes power, God's Word and also there's those three elements, revelation of The Lord Jesus ..., believing, and through the Gospel.

That God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself and for us to look to the one who loved us and gave himself for us.

4.

I'd like us to look at Paul's words to King Agrippa, as he recounts what The Lord had said to him when he was first called to ministry...

*"But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.
I will deliver you from the [Jewish] people, as well as [from] the Gentiles, to whom I now send you...,
to open their eyes, [in order] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan to God,*

'THAT' they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'
Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision..," (Acts 26:16-19 NKJV)

That's such a rich scripture, which shows what revelation of The Lord Jesus through the Gospel can achieve, when it's received by faith.

And we'll be looking at this later but when Paul spoke of his ministry, regarding preaching the Gospel, he described it as **a ministration of Spirit**....(life giving) and then a little further on in the same passage says that it was, **a ministration of Righteousness**, both of which go hand in hand ... and both are God's gift to all who believe.

In his letters, He tells us clearly., that although he'd had that amazing experience on the road to Damascus, of the blinding light that literally floored him and hearing The Lord speak to Him, that he was actually saved when The Lord revealed himself as his Saviour, who died for his sins.

He doesn't say if this happened at that specific moment, while He was face down on the ground..., or, if as I suspect, that it was in those 3 days afterwards, in Damascus, when he was blind, not eating or drinking..., just before Ananias was sent to pray for him.

But at some point The Lord opened the scriptures for him to see that He was his Saviour, in order for him to believe and be saved.

Because forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus is the key to everything.

Have a look at what he wrote years later to the Corinthians...., *"For I delivered to you first of all, **that which I also received:** **that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures** and that He was buried..., and that He rose again the third day **according to the Scriptures**..."* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NKJV)

Do you see ? *"that which I also received"....."according to the scriptures" "according to the scriptures" ?*
The Lord clearly opened Paul's knowledge of scripture for him to see Jesus as his Saviour and be born again.

Again, in another letter, this time to the Galatians, he wrote....,

"But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught [it], but [it came] through the revelation of Jesus Christ.
(Galatians 1:11-12 NKJV)

Up to that point his knowledge of scripture meant nothing until The Lord revealed himself as Saviour .

If you recall The Lord said as much to the Pharisees, " *the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me.* ("this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.")*You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.* (John 5:37-40 NKJV)

In fact the whole chapter of John 5 is well worth a read, in that The Lord tells the Pharisees plainly that He's The Son of God..., this was shortly after healing that poor man at the pool of Bethesda... and yet despite telling them openlyand having heard the witness of John the Baptist... and the miracles and signs... they didn't believe. That's the essential point. "...you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life".

5.

Which is what we read earlier, “*he came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*”. (John 1:11-13 NKJV)

So just like that couple on the Emmaus road and to the disciples shortly after that, (Luke 24:13-49) ..., in every instance, Paul included..., The Lord opened their eyes, their understanding, to see Him in the scriptures and to believe and be saved.

It’s revelation of The Lord every time, through the Gospel and life is imparted to all who believe,(receive him) .

“*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.....,*
(1 Corinthians 15:1-4 NKJV)

So even Paul had to see The Lord Jesus as his Saviour., it’s a very personal thing. And much later he tells the Galatians, “*I live by faith in The Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20 NKJV)*

The finished work of Jesus on the cross where He died in our place for all our sin ... and then His resurrection three days later, which is proof that our sins are forgiven through His blood., is the rock solid foundation that we can all safely put our trust in and build on, to which The Holy Spirit will always bear witness.

I thought that was worth pointing out before looking here at that passage where Paul describes His ministry of preaching the Gospel, The New Covenant, as a ministrations of Spirit., it’s 2 Corinthians chapter 3: 6-18,

v6 “*...who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*”

And of course when Paul says the letter kills, he's referring specifically to the Old Covenant of the Law, since the very next line begins, “*... but if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones....,*
So he’s making a comparison between The Old Covenant of The Law and The New Covenant of God’s Grace.

And just for any folks who may be new, The Old Covenant of The Law scripture tells us, was introduced specifically to show up man’s sinful nature and it highlighted the separation that existed between God and man because of sin.

In fact, separation, is one of the defining features of The Old Covenant.

And it was a covenant of condemnation and death because no-one could keep it..., necessitating the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sin (“*...indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.*” (Hebrews 9:22 ESV).... and of course that thick Veil in the Tabernacle that kept the Ark of the Covenant, where the presence and glory of God was, separate and hidden.

While in comparison, The New Covenant of God’s Grace, that was sealed by the blood of Jesus which has dealt with all our sins forever...., means that there is no more separation and consequently The Holy Spirit has been poured out on us richly, through faith in Jesus. (2 Corinthians 6:16-18 KJV)

v16 “*I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people....*

v18 “*And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*”

(2 Corinthians 6:16-18 KJV)

The blood of Jesus, changed everything ..., forever.

6.

And so Paul continues and this is all about God's glory being revealed through the ministration of The respective Covenants..., which is what we've been called to from before time began..., our Father's desire of bringing many sons to glory." (Hebrews 2:10 NKJV)

v7-8 "... but if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which [glory] was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

v9 "For if the ministry of condemnation had glory..., the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.

One is a ministration of condemnation and death, the other a ministration of righteousness and life. One is self effort and failure..., the other, God's gift to us through faith in Jesus.

v10-11 "For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.

The Old Covenant was only temporary, The New Covenant is eternal.

v12 Therefore, since we have such hope, (anticipation of God's glory promised to us), we use great boldness (plainness) of speech-- unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.

They couldn't see the glory, the reward for the man who could keep the law....and the word 'steadily', is 'atenizo' and means to gaze at it steadfastly. Which is very relevant to us regarding, "looking unto Jesus"... and "... beholding the glory of The Lord are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory..." The Old Covenant was one of doing.... The New Covenant one of believing... and in both, the idea is to be looking at the finished article so to speak.

For us.., in beholding the glory of The Lord we see God's promise to us through having believed and put our trust in The Lord Jesus.

And we need to know that a definite work is taking place within by The Lord, as we continue to believe His Word to us through The Gospel. Of sins forgiven and His promise of eternal salvation.

To be like Abraham, "... who through faith and patience inherit the promises". (Hebrews 6:12 NKJV)

And Paul continues....,

v14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

v15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

v16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

v17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

v18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

And it's really interesting that after Abram was in effect thrust out of Egypt, in the nicest possible way of course, "please take all this but don't come back kind of thing...", (clearly God wanted him in the land) ..., first thing, he heads for Bethel near Shechem, obviously wanting to get back to where he felt he was at the centre of God's will after all the recent turmoil. It's where God had appeared to him and said, 'this is the land that I give to you'.

It was at this point, here in the hills overlooking the Jordan valley that Abram and Lot separated because of strife between their herdsmen. They were both so blessed now with livestock that the land just couldn't support them both and Abram not wanting any kind of rift between them, suggested they separate and gave Lot first choice of where he wanted to settle.

7.

We all know the story, seeing the whole Jordan valley stretched out below, green and fertile, as it was then... and with a plentiful water supply throughout and also important cities down there like Sodom and others too that beckoned, that Lot chose to dwell there and so they separated.

The thing is..., Lot's name means 'Veil' (veil, covering) and immediately the veil is removed so to speak, God says this to Abram....

*"And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: **Lift your eyes now and look** from the place where you are--northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you." (Genesis 13:14-17 NKJV)*

It's no coincidence I'm sure, that The Holy Spirit moved the writer to put those two phrases side by side, "...**after Lot(veil) had separated from him..**" and "**Lift your eyes now and look**" from the place where you are".

The Veil when you think of it..., in the Tabernacle., in the Temple ...and on our hearts before we believed on The Lord, is all about God and man being separated because of sin. It defines The Old Covenant and it defines everyone born of Adam. Separation because of sin. *"but your sins have separated you from God",* it says in Isaiah . (Isaiah 59:2)

But when the veil is removed, which equates to forgiveness of sins through the shed blood of Jesus,(a clear conscience before God), immediately God's promise of eternal salvation through the Gospel, is opened up to us when we believe.

We see it ... and then the instruction is to *"walk in the land...,check it out"....*, which for us, is learning about all that's been freely given and promised to us in Christ ...and as his children, to walk in it by faith.

It's a bible principle isn't it, that if something's been revealed to you, it's yours if you want it? And I believe this is God's word of encouragement, in *"looking unto Jesus"*, to understand that regardless of what we see outwardly, *"as He is so, are we in this world"*. (1 John 4:17 NKJV) *"Beloved now we are the children of God and it does not yet appear what we shall be....."*. (1 John 3:2 NKJV)

And that if there should be any sense of condemnation in our hearts, a bad conscience towards God about anything at all..., to look to the blood of Jesus that was shed for all our sin and know that it was dealt with. The Lord's provision and desire is for us to have a clean conscience through faith in the blood of Jesus.... because it's only when the veil is removed that we can fully see and appreciate this so great salvation, which is ours to own and enjoy through faith.

Look again at The Lord's words to Paul, or Saul as he was called then, *"...rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you....."*

*'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that **That they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.**'* (Acts 26:16-18 NKJV)

It's all there isn't it? Revelation of Jesus through the Gospel...and life to all who believe. How a clean conscience through faith in the blood of Jesus and our inheritance in Him, go hand in hand.

God's Word to us through the Gospel is the principle thing ... and to just keep our eyes on Jesus every step of the way.

8.

I don't think one can over emphasise just how important and beneficial it is for his Word concerning His beloved Son is to be first and foremost in our hearts and minds.

To explore our inheritance and immerse ourselves in His Word concerning this so great salvation.

And above all, to see our Father's great love for us in all of this. "*Behold what manner of love,*" scripture says, which is that of a Father to his children and all about the inheritance of sons. (1 John 3:1)

If you remember, the previous time we saw how 'full on' God was with Abram, in keeping His promise at the forefront of Abram's mind. Using phrases like "*as the dust of the earth in number*" and "*as the stars of heaven in number, so shall your descendants be*".

So that day or night, everywhere Abram looked He would be constantly reminded of God's promise to him .

The land that he was checking out...and then later, even their new names as they used them, would have reminded them of, "*about this time next year, Sarah shall bring forth a son*"

Which shows us.., the ones for whose sakes all these examples have been faithfully recorded..., the importance The Lord places on us being mindful of the finished work of His beloved Son and of our place in Him ... and to fully embrace His promise to us of eternal salvation, which is our Hope.

And like Abram, the principle thing, is God's Word of promise in our heart. To treasure that word .

Scripture says that both Abraham and Sarah 'embraced' the promise by faith and points out that it's those "*who through faith and patience inherit the promises*". (Hebrews 6:12)

So it's the same for us.... "*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*".

(Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV)

I can picture Abram stepping inside the entrance to their tent, which must have been a bit special when you think about it..., as they were very rich. It's evening and he's ready for his meal and he's taking his shoes or sandals off just inside the entrance there...., in the same way we have a porch, you know, before putting on his fancy slippers

All the fittings and furnishings inside the tent would probably have been expensive materials, rugs..., all the best stuff... and for sure Sarah's mentioned no end of times about him forgetting to change his shoes !

And with servants and a chief steward to manage his affairs, there still must have been days when his time was taken up with all kinds of pressing issues that needed sorting out... and you know how it is, your mind is just full of the day and it's a job to switch off.

So as he's tapping his shoes against one of the wooden doorposts at the entrance of the tent there, just shaking the dust out for the morning.... God's promise springs to mind,

"I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered".

.... and the joy that would have bubbled up through everything as he thought on it. (Genesis 13:16 NKJV)

Which is fanciful I know ... but just think, there must have been countless instances like this. Looking up into the night sky, "*...count the stars, so shall your descendants be*". Loads of times when God's promise would have been brought to mind and each time his faith would have been stirred and strengthened..., built up in his spirit as he thought on God's promise to him. (Genesis 15:5 NKJV)

And this is the thing..., The Lord's showing us from this, the importance that He places on us being mindful of all that He's done for us and of our place in Christ. To carry the Hope of eternal salvation in our heart which will be fully realised when we see The Lord Jesus face to face. To encourage one another .

9.

“If then you were raised with Christ...,” Paul says, “...seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory”.

(Colossians 3:1-4 NKJV)

Well there's lots more but I think I'd best leave it there for now. In fact there's even more left out this time than last time! Still, it's a good excuse to write some more, God willing.

And just as in the previous study, the encouragement I felt to share is the same, “..... *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus.....” . (Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV)*

Perhaps last thing at night, you know, as we tap the dust out of OUR shoes so to speak..., to be reminded of God's promise to us and say, “ *Thank you Father, for loving us like you do and for my place in Christ. ”*

For me it's an image that seems to have stuck..., of the joy one feels in the midst of everyday stuff when you're reminded of God's promise to us in Christ and how everything gets put in perspective.

Well, you folks will always be very precious to us..., thanks again for being able to contribute .
The Lord is so good.
Bye for now, love from me and Teresa.