

...and the mountain endures...

And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

The cicadas are vibrating, birds are chirping and the leaves are rustling as a slight breeze passes. This morning I write sitting on the porch of my camper on the side of a mountain. Tap tapping at the keys and sipping coffee in the splendor of God's creation.

These mountains are a part of me. From the time I was a child, maybe 4 or 5, my family has had leased land on this mountain just beyond Gettysburg. Spending time camping... first with tents, then a small cabin and now, a small camper of my own... is my idea of a vacation. We have a few amenities, like electricity. No running water, though. Yes, we use an outhouse, wash dishes by hand and our bodies from a basin. (I can hear about half of you saying "Ewwww".)

Our family has grown quite a bit and so has our little mountain retreat. As the next generation has come along, nieces and nephews, children and grandchildren, they too have come to enjoy both the solitude and the fellowship that this mountain has seen through the years. Five generation thus far has spent time here and surely more will follow.

God is in this mountain. He is in the cicadas, the birds, the breeze and the leaves that rustle. Hundreds of years from now, this mountain will stand. Our presence will fade and what is here now will fall to decay, but God's creation will endure. God's love will endure. His peace is forever.

For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible ... all things were created by Him, and for Him. ... Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints; to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 1 Colossians 1:16, 26-27

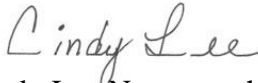
In this time of such unrest in the world, we are bombarded from all sides with the wickedness that has become the "new normal". Sitting here on the side of the mountain, it's almost as though the chaos of life has melted away. The peace that passes all understanding is here. The light dancing on the ground through the treetops reminds me that ...

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. Psalm 90:2

Not everyone can escape to a mountain and be removed from the world of tribulations. But, you can find the peace of the Lord within. Do not let the world around you extinguish the light of Christ in your heart. Put on your armor and be renewed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Romans 13:12.

May you be blessed with a peace that comes from God, no matter where you are today.


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