

“The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ...The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple.” Psalm 19:1-2, 7.

Dear Christian friends:

Summer is a truly invigorating time of year. It is a time to change our daily routine; often to ease the pace we operate at for a time. It is a time to set one's heels up and laze back for awhile. I enjoy the opportunity to spend numerous hours outside, whether hiking in the wilderness or puttering about in my garden tending flowers and waiting for the delectableness of fresh vegetables. To behold the beauty and wonder of creation around me can only bring praise to the Creator of this wonder. There will be times to be creative and try experiment with new things – plants, growing techniques, new trails and heights. These moments are truly renewing in mind, body and soul.

While I will await some of the beauty, especially that of the flowers in my garden, there will also be work. The soil has been worked and compost added. Dead foliage from last year has been carted away. Memory has had to be employed, remembering where bulbs were planted earlier as new plantings are added. Watching and waiting to see the first sign of sprouting and growth are daily habits. Then there has to be attention paid to the risks – storm warnings, attacks by pests and disease, and summer drought.

We know that during the summer days we often will hear storm warnings being announced on public air-waves. The threat of thunderstorms, hail or tornados will be a part of this summer reality! The hiking trails will be uphill demanding physical exertion to get to mountain vistas. Threats from cougars, bears, flashfloods or landslides will be potential encounters. Risks will be taken. Yes it is all work; but the joy is incredible!

All these events also remind me about our relationship with God. Relationships take work. They can place demands upon our time, our talents and our money. But relationships also bring renewal, growth and vigor. They can lead us into new venues and adventures in life. Yes, my relationships require work; but the joy is inexpressible!

All creation has a relationship with its Creator. The Creator alone can bring forth the life and renewal that alone is worth the effort. And the joy that comes from the Creator is beyond all earthly realms. Creation proclaims the wonder of God as the Creator of all.

This summer in your activities and renewals may the God of all creation bring you the fullness of His joy. Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ as LORD! A blessed summer Sabbath time to all.

In Christ forever,

Pastor Kevin.