

Revelation 22:1-5 *“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.”*

Those of you who know my wife, you know she is one of the hardest working people there is. She serves and supports my pastoral ministry, she homeschools our children and makes doctor and dentist appointments, she works two jobs to help us make ends meet in this expensive state, and she is active in her family. She literally is superwoman.

This year at the fair I went to one of the vendor booths that sold flagpoles. They were very nice telescope style that could extend up and down with ease to change out the flags or lower to half-mast. The price was very reasonable but just wasn't in the budget this month. I like to fly flags in front of my house and, for the past few years, made a flagpole with PVC pipe. While they worked, it didn't look the way I wanted it to and people from the street couldn't see or enjoy them like I wanted.

Last Saturday, Naomi came home from work after an overnight shift and surprised me with one of the flagpoles I wanted but didn't have the extra funds for. She had worked an extra shift to be able to purchase it. I was so overwhelmed and humbled my eyes literally had tears in them. She works very hard to keep our family functioning but decided to bless me with her extra efforts. Needless to say, I felt I didn't deserve it.

Isn't it the same with our God. He gives us life, love, forgiveness and purpose that we do not deserve. He went to the cross and suffered a death that He didn't have to. He was humiliated, beaten, mocked and tortured all because He wanted us to be reconciled with Him. He wanted us to be blessed with eternal life in Him and with Him. As we read the last two chapters of the book of Revelation, we are given a glimpse of what heaven will be like. This is our promise not because of us but because of him.

As we consider how good our God is to us and all that He promises to us by giving His only Son to die for us, let's no longer take it for granted, but let's worship and honor our great God and all He has done to offer His salvation and grace to us!

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg