

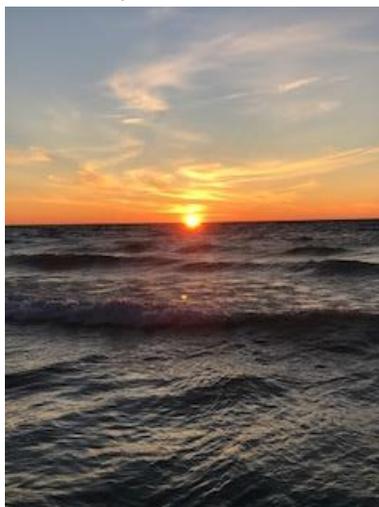
## Who Am I?

Over the last 5 summers, our family has had the glorious experience of renting a home waaay up north – just 25 minutes from bridge – on the actual shore of Lake Michigan! Wow! The first time I saw it, I was tearful. Frankly, during that first week, I was tearful many times at this beautiful, serene, internet free, blessing. A couple of weeks ago, we found ourselves in this gracious setting and gift from God for the 5<sup>th</sup> time...during a pandemic, of all things.

This year, when selecting our week, we chose the “dark” week, when the moon was “waxing” and therefore was not impeding the brilliance of the stars, shooting stars, and the Milky Way! Oh, and bonus...we were able to see the NEOWISE Comet – a comet that they say won’t be back for 6800 years! Needless-to-say, we deemed it best to take it in this time around!! It was all just magnificent!! It was truly awesome. Here is a picture my boys (Brendan and Jared) took one night...



One day, Colette and I sat on the dock together. The dock extends about 25 yards into the lake, so when you sit on the dock and face only the lake, you feel like you’re on the ocean. It’s surreal. It’s almost overwhelming. Another pic...



As we were taking it in and talking, at one point I said, “How is it that God cares about us? How could He love us? Honestly, after all we were seeing – both day and night – all I could think was...how could this God want anything to do with me?? Who am I? Colette and I both agreed that His love and care for us - and His ever-faithful eye upon us – is truly amazing. Again, I was teary.

This moment brought us back to Psalm 8:3-9, a Psalm of David:

<sup>3</sup> *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,*  
<sup>4</sup> *what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him?*  
<sup>5</sup> *Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings  
and crowned him with glory and honor.*  
<sup>6</sup> *You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under his feet,*  
<sup>7</sup> *all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,*  
<sup>8</sup> *the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*  
<sup>9</sup> *O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

I, no doubt like you, have wondered many times at God’s love upon me and thought “how could He even notice me at all”? However, according to David, it takes a humble, honest gaze into the boundless heavens to really put the question to task. God is not only mindful of man, but David marvels at the reality that God has given man dominion (albeit imperfect) over the creation! David ends as he began this song, bursting with praise to the LORD! It’s true...because of God’s love for His Son, He utterly loves me! He is actually “mindful” of me...of you, and has crowned us (even with our imperfections) with glory!

I trust this is not lost on you. Sometimes we can be blinded by the difficulties and sinfulness of this life. In this snippet, from his commentary on Isaiah, Ray Ortland Jr. says: **“Earthly-mindedness, to use an old Puritan word, will kill your heart for God, or your heart for God will kill your earthly-mindedness. But you cannot have both. Stop trying to.”**

Friends, I don’t know where this column finds you today, but know this, that earthly-mindedness can defeat you – and it doesn’t have to be related only to willful sin. It can be related to an improper love for this life and the pursuit of having things the way you want them. Stop trying to have the best of this world. Stop longing for your circumstances to change in *this* world – for this world is a counterfeit and it cannot bring you ultimate peace or comfort. You can pray about these things but live *this* life to

love and long for God. Nothing else will do – nor is it meant to. The world that God has called us to, and will one day be perfect, is the far greater! Set your hope on that! (Col. 3)

Maybe it's time for a gaze into the heavens. For there you will find both the majesty of God, and the humility of man, mingled together. It's a wonderful reset!

Who am I? I am His...the God of all creation. In Christ, so are you; isn't that great!?

Jerry