

Reflections on August 2013 Readings

* Some Scriptures in the wisdom literature that spoke to me this month were:

A thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. (Ps 90:4)

The years of our life are three score and ten, or even by reason of strength four score... they are soon gone and we fly away. (90:10)

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom... (90:12)

Satisfy us in the morning with thy steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.(90:14)

Let the favor of the Lord be upon us, and establish the work of our hands... (90:17)

The righteous flourish ...like a cedar in Lebanon... They still bring forth fruit in old age... (92:12-15)

These are good reminders that our time here is brief, indeed. I must use the time allotted to me better. What a difference it makes when I start each day with Bible reading, prayer and meditation; things fall into place so much better. As God places thoughts and tasks on my heart, I write them down. These then become my agenda for the day (fortunately I'm retired and have a lot of flexibility in planning my day).

By putting God first on my to-do list I'm so much more at peace throughout the day, in a much better mood to nurture and encourage others—and I get so much more accomplished! Consider Esther and how she requested three days of fasting by the Jews and her attendants before taking action—and God inspired her with a plan that saved the entire Jewish nation from extinction. I'll soon be turning 70 and I wouldn't be surprised if my most fruitful work, with God leading and blessing me, may still lie ahead!

* Other Scriptures that touched my heart are:

What matters is faith that is active through love. (Gal 5:6b) Through love serve one another. (13b)

Spiritual fruit:love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control.(22-23a)

Don't be arrogant, provoke one another, and envy one another. (26) One harvests what he plants. (6:7b)

Determine what pleases the Lord, and have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness. Instead, expose them for what they are. (Ephesians 5:10-11)

Serve willingly, as to the Lord, not merely people. Everyone will receive a reward for good they do (6:7-8)

The whole armor of God:belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes on the feet to proclaim the Gospel of Peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation and sword of the Spirit (the Word) (from 6:10-17)

The One who began a good work in you will bring it to completion (Phil 1:6) to live is Christ, and to die is gain.(Phil 1:21) Do not get weary of well-doing. (II Thess 3:13)

May the Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in every way. (II Thess 16)

The joy of the Lord is your strength! (Nehemiah 8:10b)