

Our Eternal Home

There is a verse in that old familiar and beloved hymn, “Abide with Me” which has been more and more impressed on my heart and mind lately.

Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;

Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;

Change and decay in all around I see.

O Thou, who changest not, abide with me.”

The first part of that verse could be very depressing except for the last part, a prayer for God’s abiding and unchanging presence. Job said his life had passed by “swifter than a weaver’s shuttle”. If you have ever seen a weaver’s shuttle, even a hand operated one, you will know Job was using hyperbole, but even given that, life slips quickly, rapidly by, and the years tend to merge into each other with increased acceleration. But we should never forget that each day is a precious gift, and each one effects eternity and our place in it. Too much of my joy and excitement has been wrapped up in the things of this world which are passing away, and too little of my joy and concentration has been on things which really count and will endure for all eternity. Oh, I believe that this life is important, and that God created temporal things for us to use for His glory and to enjoy to the fullest. But the book of Ecclesiastes also reminds us, “He has put eternity in our hearts”. That’s why nothing in and of this world will ever bring true and lasting satisfaction. Truly as Augustine confessed, “Thou hast made us for thyself, and our souls are restless until they rest in Thee.” As the years glide swiftly by we are reminded that this world is not our final home, but we do have a permanent home, and that with each passing day, we are one more step nearer to that home. Yes, life is gliding swiftly by, and with it all the things of this world are passing away. But as the Apostle John said in his short letter, “The world is passing away, and the lusts of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”[I John 2:17] So, as for me and my house, we re-dedicate ourselves to doing the will of God, no matter what that may be, or where it will lead; and we claim the promise of “forever”.