

Saturday, March 28

Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

I drive on the interstate daily. In the springtime, during my drive each day, I notice something that seems unusual. Signs posted along specific grassy sections of the highway read, "Caution!" and "Controlled burn ahead." Continuing on slowly, I see workers setting the grass on fire, which turns the top growth of the grass into ash and allows the nutrients from the top growth to be reabsorbed into the soil. As I contemplate this process, I can't help but think about the stark contrast involved; the prairie grass must die before new growth and renewal can take place.

What insight to our lives this scene offers! God desires us to die daily to self so that God might bring about a new being in us, thanks to what God has done in Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God has forgiven us for all of our sins and freed us from the power of sin and death. Certainly, God gives us a choice: we can allow God to work in us to accomplish God's purpose, or we can turn God away. Is turning God away worth the cost?

We are nearing the most difficult time of Lent, when the end of Jesus' physical, earthly life is at the forefront. We'll read about Jesus sharing the Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane, and Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. As you hear those stories, ponder how different everything would be had Jesus not given himself to God's will. God expects nothing less of us than God expected of Jesus! Give every part of your being to God, knowing beyond a doubt that God loves you immeasurably, and the result will be a creation more beautiful than you can imagine.

Prayer: Almighty God, we cannot comprehend your great love for us, which gives us life unending. Stir up in us the desire to allow that love to shape us according to your plan. Amen

Written by Stacey Duncan