QUICKLY FADING

 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. **10** And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; **11** Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Acts 1:9-11 (KJV)

From my office window at home I can see the turn in the road where we turn beside the Red Barn to go to Highway 278. This morning (Friday) I was beginning this devotion as Kathie left for work. I could see the tail lights of her car as she made the turn and they went out of sight. I had a slight sinking feeling as I lost sight of them for I knew that this, as any other time, could be the last time I could see them. Neither she nor I are promised tomorrow. I can also see Meagan and Anthony’s house from my window. Pretty often, we see Ella coming to our house. When she comes in she boldly announces “I’m here.” That provides a different kind of feeling but I know that it will not be long until she will be in the car with the fading tail lights. Sterling, Lilah, and Konnor have an old gray golf cart they ride in to our house. They have already worn another little road along-side the main road to our house, yet I know that one of these days that little road could grow up from lack of travel. Yesterday was Randa (our oldest daughter) and Mark’s (her husband) fifteenth wedding anniversary. That seems impossible! Life is quickly fading. I must cherish the blessings the Lord has provided.

In our text the disciple stood gazing into heaven. Why? They had seen the Savior lose gravitation and begin ascending into the sky. He rose and rose and went higher and higher and as he rose he began to get smaller and smaller in their sight. Like watching an airplane take off from the airport that has a loved one as a passenger you watch until it is completely out of sight; so watched they Jesus. Although he was out of sight they still gazed to see if they could make out his form even in the slightest way. Thank God! We have the promise that we will see him again!

I pray we have the promise with our loved ones that we will see them again. The tail lights are quickly fading. My wife and I are getting older. The daughters are married and have children. The grandchildren are older: Sterling is approaching teenage status at a break-neck pace; the others are in school or starting school. Yes sometimes now I appreciate the tail lights but way too soon they will be a sad sight.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram