

Water

I recently visited a friend who has a newly built pond on his land. When I first visited the pond in the fall, there was very little water in it. I could easily see the sloping sides of earth that would someday hold the water when the pond was full. The water, though being several feet deep, looked small compared to the large space excavated for it. As I returned to this pond recently, I was amazed to see just how much water filled the old "dug out" shape. It had grown and the water had expanded into parts of the land that I originally hadn't even realized would one day be part of the pond. It was beautiful. It was full of life. The more water that filled the pond, the more defined the space became.

Our lives are like this pond. The water is symbolic of the Word of God and the more word I have in me, the better my "shape" is defined. God's word, if I allow myself to gain more of it, will cause me to expand and take on new spaces in life. It will allow me to be something new and fresh – something full of life. When I was much younger and immature in my walk with God, I used to think of the word of God as something that constricted us. I viewed it as a symbol of all the things we *couldn't* be and couldn't do.

Now I realize that God's word is meant, not to confine me, but to *define* me. And His definitions of my life are much more beautiful and much more expansive than I could ever imagine of myself. Through God's word in me, I am able to branch out and grow, just like that water. On Sunday we talked about our life being a journey. We agreed that we were all on a journey to find peace, rest and reward. Those things don't come to us after the end of a workday, the end of a project, or the end of a season of life, but they really come from God. And if they really come from God then we can find them in no matter what state we find ourselves.

BUT, we have to let him in our boat first . . .

John 6:20-21

20 But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." 21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

The word of God reveals the peace, the rest, and the reward that are ours in Christ. The word expands us to what we really should be: to the form that we should really have. And once He's in our boat, we

don't notice the wind or the waves anymore. Ask Him into your boat,
that your waters might be expansive and peaceful.

Loving you all,
Michael ten Eyck

(Michael ten Eyck is pastor of First Christian Church, Pittsfield, Illinois)