

July 20

Malachi 3:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.

Due to my illness and the COVID virus, Carol and I had not been on a “vacation” in over a year. Many months ago, Carol reserved a cabin on the Glover River for us. We postponed once because of complications, and the new date fast approached. However, as our departure neared, we began to waver as to whether we should go. We would vacillate between going and not going, which meant we had no peace. The Sunday before leaving in a few days, we knew that the Lord was not causing this confusion, so we prayed the Holy Spirit would give us a clear answer. After the service, two very dear friends told me to sit down. They did not ask any questions. Instead, they said, “You need to go.”

When I read today’s verse, I smiled. Those who fear the Lord are those who honor, respect, worship, obey, and submit to Him. That truly described this couple. I smiled because as Carol and I were discussing our wavering opinions, the Lord was listening. He planned out the answer in a way that we could not mistake His presence. He was not eavesdropping as some have suggested. Instead, He was our heavenly Father listening to the concerns of His children. For all who fear the Lord and submit to Jesus, this holds true. He listens to our every need, concern, fear, doubt, complaint, etc. He listens to us because He loves us. This is a sobering thought as we can hide nothing from Him, but this also gives us peace because knowing He is near and listening helps us take our thoughts captive. Most importantly, He writes in HIS book of remembrance the name of every person who truly fears Him and honors His name. Nothing could be or should be more important.