



Well, as it happens, today is my 65th birthday, and although it's a rainy, dreary day, I'm very grateful to have made it this far. I had my annual physical yesterday, got a clean bill of health, and was encouraged to "get skinnier," which I'm going to do, dadgum it. Both of my parents made it almost to 94, so there may be time to accomplish that. And, as Jill puts it, "We're now too old to die young ☺."

I'm grateful for many things today. I'm grateful for godly parents who served the Lord whole heartedly, and who led me to know the Savior. I'm grateful for Jill, whom I began to date when she was 15, forty-six summers ago, and who has always loved me far more than I ever deserved.

I'm grateful for teachers and mentors across the years who saw what God might be able to do through my life if they didn't give up (and they were sometimes tempted to do so).

I'm grateful for our children, Nathan and Anna, for their soul mates, Lisel and Matt, and for their young ones, Hadley, Afton, Forrest, Cooper, and Barrett. I'm grateful that we didn't give up on them in the hard seasons of life, and that they have turned out to be solid citizens and wonderful parents after all ☺.





I'm grateful for the congregations it has been my privilege to serve, and for God's gracious kindness in sending me to you for the "sunset tour"!

- Middletown Baptist Church, Middletown, RI
- Dorchester-Waylyn Baptist Church, Charleston, SC
- First Baptist Church, Carlisle, KY
- Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, KY
- St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, KY
- First Baptist Church, Bristol, VA
- Columbia Baptist Fellowship, Columbia, MD

I'm grateful that, after growing up on a lake, Jill is able to live at the lake once again, and that perhaps one day I'll be there, too. If health and strength allow, I hope to be able to journey with you for another five or six years, after which I suppose I'll move over to Virginia with her.



God is good, all the time, and I am deeply, deeply grateful. I love you "guys."

Dave

