

Sitting along the western shore of East Gull Lake, I found myself hypnotized by the call of the Common Loon (which does not seem all that common to me) and by the beauty of the watery piece of glass stretching out before me. With the rising sun reflecting into my eyes and creating a unique masterpiece on the tapestry of the sky, I was enthralled by this majestic piece of heavenly artwork as colors splashed before me. And so with the sights and sounds all around me, the smell of the brand-new day, the touch of the cool breeze and the taste of coffee on my tongue, I sat entranced and enjoyed this God-given moment.

But no amount of adjectives can recreate that moment no matter how hard I try. No amount of creative descriptive language can replicate that artwork. Therefore, all that I can give you is my word that what I am describing is accurate to the best of my ability. And though you may be impressed, or at least mildly intrigued with my above description, my words most definitely fall way short of what I really saw and experienced. For you see, my words are incomplete and powerless, and will soon be forgotten. Maybe you will talk about this article for a few days, but those conversations will not last.

But the real power of words is not in the commanding use of creative and descriptive adjectives. The power of words ultimately resides in the One who speaks them. ***“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*** (Revelation 21:1-4)

Now this is a beautiful vision. This is a majestic picture. This is an enduring hope. For these are not just words penned by John, but they are the very words of God the Father, Creator of the heavens and the earth, the One. They are beautiful because they are living and active. They have the power to change hearts and redirect the course of one’s life. These words are beautiful because they are Gospel truth for you, through Jesus Christ. So, soak these words in and bask in the radiating glow of their promises and thus praise the One who is

faithful to bring beauty to life through his majestic and powerful Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.