

Boundary Lines

by Pastor Sharon Tidd (July 8, 2020)

I was driving up Boundary Road the other day, reflecting on the fact that it marks the official boundary between the City of Vancouver and the City of Burnaby. As I'm moving from the first to the second shortly, I was struck by this idea of boundaries and their importance.

Our world is filled with them – boundaries between Cities, Provinces, Nations; boundaries separating and delineating communities; boundaries between houses and properties; even interpersonal boundaries, which have become more pronounced in these COVID-19 days! Boundaries are important. They serve the purpose of helping us be respectful of other people and their properties. They help us identify where specific rules apply. Agreed-upon boundary lines help limit friction between neighbours. Setting boundaries in relationships can keep us safe from harm and abuse and manipulation.

In Psalm 16:5-6 the psalmist declares, "LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance."

These verses are so encouraging. They assert the truth that God has provided for you and me. In Him our needs are being met continually. Just as the Psalmist knew and declares that God assigned his "portion" and "cup", so I can claim this truth for myself. All that has been and will be part of my physical, emotional, spiritual and relational life has been pre-planned and pre-ordained by God. It has been assigned to me; meaning that my portion and cup is unique to me. It is designed to match the "me" that God created ... my personality, my quirks, my deepest longings, my aspirations, my talents and abilities, my dreams, my godly desires. God made me. He hasn't assigned me something that would match another person better. He has assigned a life that perfectly matches me! He gave me life. And He has designed a full and beautiful life that matches all that He has placed within me. My Master Designer hasn't just formed me, He has planned out

the life that I will have, ensuring that I will know hope and will have a glorious future (Jeremiah 29:11).

The Psalmist asserts that the “portion” and “cup” that God has assigned to me is secure. Nothing can steal them from Him or from me. They are mine for all eternity; bought and paid for by the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

He also reminds me that the boundary lines that God has set for me are pleasant. Some days it may be difficult to see this or believe this, but God’s Word assures me that it is true! Some days I may fight against those boundary lines. They may feel a little restrictive and confining. But I need to trust that God has placed them there for my protection. The boundary lines He sets are intended to keep me on the straight and narrow, to keep me within His gracious care, to keep me on the path that He has chosen for me ... a path that will enable me to be all that He made me to be!

The Psalmist goes on to remind me that my inheritance ... all that God has planned for me ... is delightful. It isn’t something to dread. Whatever lies ahead for me, I can trust that it will prove delightful. There may be struggle. There may be pain. There will be sorrow. There will also be much joy and celebration and exhilaration. My inheritance is delightful. God will take every circumstance of my life and bring delight to me and others through it. It’s good to claim this truth, especially on days when life doesn’t feel delightful. My journey through those more difficult days will be used to bring comfort and hope to others who face similar struggles as His Word promises (2 Corinthians 1:4). My joy-filled days will enrich my life and help others see that good days are promised to those who remain faithful (Psalm 37:28-29). I hope I am delighting in the inheritance God has for me in this time, in this moment ... and in every moment of this journey. I hope I am trusting that His intention is to bring me delight through it all!

As I was driving on Boundary Road (something I won’t be doing quite as often in the near future), I was reminded of these truths. God is good! His love for me is abundant and immeasurable. Before He made me, before He formed me in my mother’s womb, He planned to bless me with wonderful, delightful, glorious gifts. It was good to be able to reflect on this as I drove. And on days when I don’t feel

like my life is wonderful, and days when I question or worry about what my life will be like given the changes ahead, I am grateful that His Spirit reminds me that He has assigned me a pleasant and delightful inheritance, and He has set the boundary lines in place so that what He has planned will be accomplished!

I gave thanks as I drove. I hope you too can claim these truths, experience delight in the life God has given to you and give Him thanks.