



# *The Cross & Steeple*

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From John

I like pictures. Photographs. That you can hold in your hand. Or hang on the wall. They are visual reminders of people you love. And special places you have gone with them.

Of course, as most of you know, I am a photographer's son. I grew up learning to take pictures with cameras from the newspaper where he worked. A time of black and white film. Of making every shot count. A time when you had to wait to see your prints. It was exciting to open the envelope and look at the prints, seeing how well you had done. Or not.

Digital photography has changed a lot of things. But I still like pictures.

One great thing about digital that is nice is to have all your pictures on your computer. My computer at church kicks into the slide show after ten minutes. The pictures go one after another on my screen. I will glance up and see a picture of Gloria, and I will say, "Oh, I love you." And then a picture of Elijah. "Oh, I love you." Isaiah. Sarah. Mark. Joseph. Matthew. John. Susan. Glenda. One after the other. A few seconds of love and memories and then the next picture. Sometimes pictures of you.

But I still like getting prints, too. Something I can hold in my hand. And look at slowly. Right there in my hand.

Isaiah says that God has us engraved on the palms of His hands. He doesn't need a monitor. Or a photograph. We are right there on His palm. His family. I am a photographer's son. And a son of God. He looks down, and He sees me. He sees you. And I like to think that He says, "Oh, I love you."

(Reference --Isaiah 49:15-16)