R E F L E C T I O N S
Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 3/19/18

Jo and I found this bald eagle resting on a branch overlooking the Ohio River near our home. Bald eagles have only recently appeared in this part of Ohio, and their appearance brings joy to my heart. Their protective status has ensured their survival and proliferation. Why the protective status? It is largely because they were designated our national bird (much to the chagrin of Benjamin Franklin who championed the wild turkey). But now, as our national symbol, eagles appear on our money, on governmental buildings, on official documents, and on our national seal. Seeing an eagle on any seal is a guarantee of the importance of whatever is sealed. In olden days, kings stamped important letters by pressing their rings into the wax that sealed the letters. When the recipient received a letter with an unbroken seal, he knew the letter had not been tampered with. As believers in Christ, we also have been sealed. The seal is given as a sign of our future inheritance, the promise of an awaiting treasure. The king who made the promise was none other than God himself, and the seal that guards against all tampering is the Holy Spirit. We, like a prized messenger of old, are carrying a priceless guarantee. That guarantee will be honored when we arrive at our destination. The bald eagle is prized because it is on our nation's seal, but that pales when compared to the seal we have that is remaking us as we are led safely home. It is the guarantee that the inheritance earned by Jesus will be ours. Rejoice that the One who gave us our seal will never break it. - John