Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Mid-April, the lakes are open, ***WOW*** *and exclamation points****!!!*** *Dare I begin to start thinking about all those walleyes which need to be caught this coming summer by friends and family****???***

Nope! Nope? Yes, nope forgetting about Mid-April we come to Later-April and at least two days of blizzard like conditions, ***WOW*** *and exclamation points****!!!*** *Whatever happened to "April Showers bring May Flowers"****???***

*So, Ely weather at times can give us some insights into the many joys of life; to use a baseball term because the baseball season has started despite the blizzard like conditions we are now facing, life at times can throw us a "****CURVE BALL****" or two****!!!***

*Actually, we are talking about how life can often times be very predictable and routine and then at times in comes a "****CURVE BALL****" and the predictable becomes "****TURVY****"-"****TOPSY****",* ***WOW*** *and exclamation points****!!!***

*Now, the "****CURVE BALLS****" we face in life can be high or low, they can be good or bad, and at times they can have an indifferent impact on our lives.*

*Still, in life, when those "****CURVE BALLS****" are thrown our way it is comforting to know, whether they are thrown as highs or lows, good, bad, or indifferent there is an ever overriding constant---****GOD'S*** *gracious* ***LOVE*** *for us, as* ***GOD'S*** *children****!!! WOW*** *and exclamation points of* ***JOY, JOY, JOY!!!***

*When we think of love, when we think about the qualities of love, we can turn to the Apostle Paul's letter written to the Corinthian people, I Corinthians 13; I Corinthians 13 has often been referred to as "The Love Chapter"****!!!*** *(Please Do So) Further, as we face the "****CURVE BALLS****" of life thrown as* ***HIGHS*** *or* ***LOWS****, even in the dirt; good, bad, or with a bit of indifference let us think today about* ***GOD'S*** *gracious* ***LOVE*** *and consider* ***GOD"S LOVE*** *for us includes:*

COMPANIONSHIP
FORGIVENESS AND MERCY
GRACE
COMFORT AND JOY
HOPE
JESUS THE CHRIST
HOLY SPIRIT
CHURCH

*Ah, the "****CURVE BALLS****" which are thrown over the home plate of our lives are sometimes "****HIGH****" and sometimes "****LOW****" and maybe even in the dirt, they can be good, bad, or indifferent but they exist as a part of the ebb and flow of living life; whether the "****CURVE BALLS****" we face are joys or sadness in the weather of our lives there is a constant---****GOD'S*** *gracious* ***LOVE*** *for us, as* ***GOD'S*** *children****!!! WOW*** *and exclamation points of companionship, forgiveness, mercy, grace, comfort, joy, hope,* ***JESUS*** *the* ***CHRIST****, the* ***HOLY SPIRIT****, and the church,* ***JOY, JOY, JOY!!!***

Indeed, weathering the uncertainties of life we have the ***ROCK*** *solid foundation of* ***GOD'S LOVE*** *revealed to us by* ***JESUS CHRIST!!!***

Love in Christ,

Dana