

## Anticipation

It was finally here. Spring had sprung, the snow was gone, ice was off the lakes, mosquitoes were not yet hatched, and my jail (my parents called it school) term was almost up. It was mid May and to northern Minnesotans that meant the highly anticipated fishing opener. The prized walleye was now within hook's reach!

Living on a boundary lake even made it more exciting. Getting the dock in the lake, putting the boat in the water, prepping the outboard, along with gathering all the fishing gear. Add to that, my dad was a guide and knew all the sweet spots! And to top it off, he never learned how to count walleye! We could catch all we wanted! Yes, anticipation ran high.

Yet, as much as I have enjoyed fishing openers, there is one event I eagerly anticipate; and that is the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the hope of His people. It is the promise He has made. Revelation 1:8, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."* Rev 22:12, *"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."* Jesus bookends His apocalypse with those promises; and in between He warns of difficult days ahead. Considering this, I am thankful that He has provided salvation and a glorious future for all who believe in Him!

Recollecting my first opener, it was such a disappointment. I was 5, the youngest of three brothers, and had to stay home with mom. Maybe it was the 4 AM start, or the tough portages, but I was left to fish alone. Unbelievably, I had hooked a nice walleye, only to lose it five feet from shore; I had gone from victory to defeat in a mere moment. I had tasted the bitterness of fishing. I probably needed psychiatric help after that, but never got it. But what helped psychologically, were the many fishing openers that followed in which we filled our stringers. Funny, I didn't learn how to count walleye either. Huh, funny how things run in the family?