


Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

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Lessons From Locust and Lizards

Paul Smithson

In the past couple of articles we have been studying the observations made by Agur, whose writings are found in the book of Proverbs, chapter 30. Agur observed that what animals do by instinct many times is much wiser than what we do by our own choice. Thus, he lists four small creatures from whose wisdom we can learn: the ant, the badger, the locust, and the lizard (Prov. 30:24-28). Let us consider some lessons from locusts and lizards.

"The locusts have no king, yet all of them go out in ranks" (Proverbs 30:27). Agur observes the wisdom of unity and cooperation seen in the locusts. Like an army, locusts make successful marches over miles of country, completely devastating the lands they cover. They do this because when they go out, they all go out and work in unity.

Soldiers of Christ have been given their marching orders to go out and cover the world with the gospel (Mark 16:15-16). The cause of Christ will best triumph when everyone will "go out" living and teaching the truth in unity. When they do, Satan's fields will be devastated.

The problem today is that much division exist among those who claim to be soldiers of the cross. One denomination teaches and practices one thing, another denomination teaches and practices something else. The result is that

many who are lost are repelled by the disunity and conflicting doctrines. Thus, much of Satan's fields go unaffected.

Some say that the answer to this is that all denominations band together, overlook each others differences, and agree to disagree. But this is not unity (see Ephesians 4:3-6). The answer to biblical unity in the cause of Christ is to set aside all denominational names, creeds, and doctrines and get back to the Bible and it alone for what is taught and practiced. If everyone who claims to be a soldier of Christ would unite in this way, think of how the world would be covered with the gospel in a swarm. If the locusts can do their work by instinct without a king, surely men can do the work of the gospel by submitting to the King of kings as their Leader and Commander. To truly submit to Christ is to follow His word alone for what we believe and practice, speaking where the Bible speaks and being silent where the Bible is silent.

The last of the four small creatures of wisdom that Agur observes is the lizard. The King James Version says "spider" instead of lizard. The term in the original is a hard one for the translators because it is close to the word for both "lizard" and "spider." The term comes from a word that means "that which

clings to the ground.” “Lizard” may be the better translation. However, lessons can be drawn from either.

Agur observed, “The lizard takes hold with its hands and is in the kings’ palaces” (Proverbs 30:28). Here is a little creature, small enough to be held in your hand, yet, because of its persistence, ends up living in a better place than many people. The little lizard (or spider) establishes itself in the king’s palace.

Living in Florida for a while, I learned that both lizards and spiders can get most anywhere they want to be, even with all the efforts that are made to exterminate them. They are persistent. These little creatures “take hold.” They can stick to the walls and hide in crevices out of the way of danger.

It is a great thing to be able to hold on. Persistent endurance would describe the wisdom of these creatures, which brings about a reward. Certainly we can learn from them. If we lack the quality of persistent endurance the lizard has by instinct, we will never be found in the King’s palace. Satan is continually out to get us, doing all he can to keep us from our reward. But like the lizard (or spider), we must take hold, avoid the danger, be persistent! Jesus said, “You will be hated by all on account of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved” (Mark 12:13). He said, “Be faithful unto death and I’ll give you a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). Jesus is saying if you hold on, endure, be persistent, you will dwell in the King’s palace.

These are inspired lessons from Agur, a man of God, who took the time to stop and observe the small but wise creatures. Let us learn from them and be spiritually wise. If we do, we will have the foresight to prepare for eternity, realizing our weaknesses and need for shelter that only the Lord can give. We will strive for true, biblical unity in the cause of Christ, and persistently endure that we might one day dwell in the heavenly palace of our Lord and King.

~via *The Gospel Observer*; Avondale, Pennsylvania.

If Our Heart Condemn Us

David Smitherman

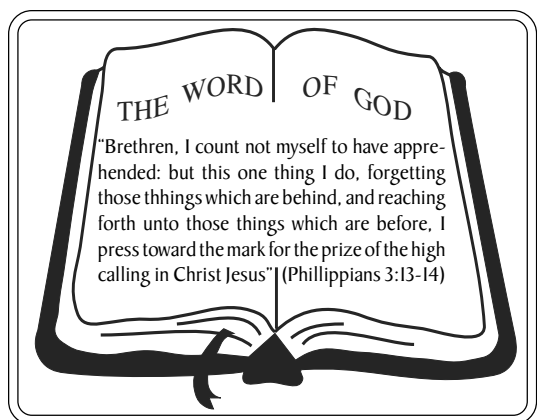
At some point in our spiritual lives, most of us have been plagued with self-doubt regarding our relationship with God. Our hearts condemn us and we conclude that if our hearts so convict us, God’s evaluation must be equally severe.

In order to overcome such feelings of uncertainty, I need to familiarize myself with 1 John. Among other things, John’s message is (1) God wants us to have boldness (confidence, cheerful courage”, Vine), 1 John 2:28; 3:21; 4:17; 5:14, about our relationship with Him. (2) With the phrase “hereby we know”, God tells His children how they can know certain things that can give them this confidence (2:3, 5-6, 18; 3:16, 19, 24; 4:2, 6, 13; 5:2).

Especially helpful is regard to the foreboding thoughts mentioned above is a consideration of the cited text. While it is true that God knows of our failures and weaknesses, we need to remember that “he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind” of our spirits (Romans 8:27). Being greater than our hearts, he knows us and our hearts better than we do and He knows all the things about our spiritual condition better than we can know them.

Our hearts can be harsh and deceitful judges, but thanks be to God that His judgments are righteous and true (Revelation 16:5).

~via *Bible Viewpoints*, Katy, Texas.



The Answer Is In The Bible

Troy Nicholson

“There has never been a time in the history of the world that the Bible needs to be studied more than at the present time. It is not necessary to make an argument along that line; all that is necessary is to let the people look out over the world as it is today and consider the things that confront us: – nations at war with each other; all confidence lost between nations; political corruption in our own country; courts full of divorce cases; crime at its very highest; men and women both under the influence of the worst curse that ever blighted our country, and that is liquor; saloons and roadhouses on nearly every street in towns that are of any size; gambling seems to be the order of the day in most places; taking the name of God in vain by both men and women; disrespect to parents; professed disciples of the Lord not interested in the church, who would rather spend their time on Lord’s days in something that will satisfy the flesh instead of feeding the soul the word of God. Now these are some of the things that we see when we look about us today. But what is the cause of this? There is but one answer to this question - man has forgotten his God. He has crowded the word of God out of his heart and life. He takes no time to read the Bible. It is a disgrace to good morals to bring children into this world and then refuse to help them live the right kind of life.”

The above quote looks like a description of our present time, yet it was not written to describe today. The quote comes from a book by J.C. Roady (Christ and His Church), first printed in 1948. Little has really changed in the last fifty years. Solomon said long ago, “That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Mankind has always struggled with most of the problems listed. Also, the answer to those problems has always been contained in

the Bible, God’s word.

Peter says, “His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3). Paul says basically the same thing, in a more detailed form, when he says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). A knowledge of God’s word equips us with all we need to know concerning matters of life and godliness. We must then properly apply what we know.

Roady goes on to say, “If people would read the Bible as they should, there would be no need of the things existing that we have mentioned above. We need to learn all of God and His goodness that we can. We need to know what God wants us to do and to have the courage to do it. We need to know how to control ourselves. We need to consider the weakness of others as we consider the weakness of ourselves. Yes, if we could just get these things firmly fixed in our mind and act accordingly, we would accomplish more than words can express. We plead with the readers of this book - read your Bible; live the life it sets before you. Let the Lord and the church be first in your life. Keep in mind God will help us in our weakness, and He will save us eternally if we are faithful to Him. His laws are perfect, His judgment is just, His wisdom is beyond criticism, and His decisions are final. Let us learn of Him, and let us live for Him. By doing so, it will make the world a better place in which to live, and it will make people with whom we come in contact happier.”

~via *The Southport Sounder*, Greenwood, Indiana.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Nell Bates* continues in the CVICU in the Huntsville hospital and her condition is about the same...**Rodney & Angie McCrary** were both feeling better and able to be at Bible study Wednesday night after being sick over the weekend..**Millinea Word** received word this week that she has a problem with another disk in her back that will require the Krypophlasty procedure..**Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson,** is in the UAB hospital in Birmingham, room 806 ..**Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook,** is scheduled to have surgery on his foot this Monday..**Nell Bates sister, Ruby Jean Green,** has been in the Athens-Limestone Hospital ...Remember **Nell Bates' niece, Tina Strickland,** is continuing her treatments for her cancer ...Also remember **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home and not able to be out...Also remember **Gurtie Snoddy** who is in the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home ...Remember **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunt,** and **Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty,** who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Sam and Aldeen Noles** and all the family is the passing of Sam's brother, **Bill Noles,** recently in Arizona...Also we want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Hoyt and Faye Hammond** is the passing of Hoyt's sister-in-law, **Ruble Hammond,** this past week. The funeral was on Monday.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for group two to meet. If you are in group two plan to meet with your group this evening.

OUT OF TOWN: **Scottie Goode** has been out of town this past week in Anaheim, California at a conference.

BUSINESS MEETING: The elders have scheduled a business meeting tonight following our services. All the men please plan to be present if at all possible.

Gospel POWER

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

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