

Calvary Christian Fellowship Mennonite Church

October 13, 2013

✚✚✚ Welcome to our Worship Service! ✚✚✚

Devotional:----- Loren Yoder
Message:----- Ernie Gingerich
Offering:----- Alms
SS Lesson:----- Hebrews 11:16-40

Adult and Youth Verse: Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Heb. 11:25

Intermediate Verse: For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 3:11

Junior Verse: Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. Josh. 1:9

Primary Verse: "Be sure your sin will find you out." Num. 32:23

Preschool Verse: "Thou God seest me" Gen. 16:13

SS Lesson for next week: Hebrews 12

Adult and Youth Verse for next week: Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: Heb. 12:28

Today's Host: Fellowship Lunch. Everyone welcome!

Next Sunday Host: Jonathan & Mary K Miller

☐ ○ ☐ CHILDREN'S CORNER ○ ☐ ○ ☐

The Ark That Saves Us
September 12, 2013

Did you know that, just like Noah, we have an Ark of our own? No, God doesn't expect us to build a big boat. (After all, He promised never again to flood the earth.)

Just like Noah was saved from judgment in the Ark, Jesus can save us from the coming judgment.

You see, God has to deal with sin. He can't just let people disobey Him and hurt each other forever. The Bible promises that someday He'll judge ungodly mankind, cleansing the heavens and the earth with fire. Everything will be destroyed (2 Peter 2:5-13).

When will that happen? Only God knows. But we do know that He is being very patient so that more people can hear about salvation in Jesus.

If we repent of our sins and trust Jesus to save us, He will. He took the judgment we deserve when He died on the Cross and paid for the wrongs of all His children. He's the "Ark" that will protect us when the universe burns up with a loud roar (2 Peter 3:10).

Jesus will make sure His children arrive safely at their new heaven and new earth. They'll spend eternity worshipping Him in their new home, safe from worry about any judgment ever again (2 Peter 3:13).

-Kids Answers <http://goo.gl/N9BjDM>

Announcements:

- ✓ This Evening: Free Evening
- ✓ Youth will be singing at Morningside this afternoon at 2:00.
- ✓ PTA meeting Tuesday evening at 7:00. Bring finger foods
- ✓ Wednesday Evening: Prison Service (Annex) 4:15 PM. To go: Ervin, Loren, Ralph, Robert & Jonathan-devotions
- ✓ Church Social Thursday evening at 6:30.
- ✓ School devotions this week by: Jonathan Miller
- ✓ Update from Everett & Elmina: Monday morning we get a Brain MRI to check for tumors. We have good hopes it will be clear. If it is then we decide what we want to do about thyroid and neck vertebrae. Two separate surgeries. Don't know which one first. Will see what doc says. Thanks for Praying! -Ev.
If anyone wants to call them there is a USA phone number: 619-796-1523 that rings in their cottage. Keep in mind they are two hours behind our time.

~BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES~

Oct. 13, Happy Birthday! Sheldon Yoder, 1995
Oct. 15, Happy Birthday! Philip Yoder, 1989
Oct. 17, Happy Birthday! Nathan Yoder, 1995
Oct. 19, Happy Birthday! Iva Yoder, 1985

Goat-heads and Sin

-By Kathy Pelton

While working in my yard the last few days, I've been thinking a lot about Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden. Not because everything is lush and green (although it is a lot greener than normal). Rather, I've been thinking of Genesis 3:17-18: "... Cursed is the ground because of you; ... It will produce thorns and thistles for you. ..." I'm pretty sure that when God said "thorns and thistles", He was talking about goat-heads (known as puncture vines in some parts of the country). You see, if there's one thing my siblings and I all have in common, it has to be the ability to spot a goat-head while walking across the yard and the inability to walk past it. The destruction of goat-heads is very deeply

ingrained in us.

So while I was thinking about Adam and Eve's sin and its consequences (goat-heads), the goat-heads became, in my mind, the very representation of sin. As such, it occurred to me that we can learn many lessons about sin from my enemy the goat-head. For example:

1. Because of our recent rains, the goat-heads were actually fairly easy to pull this week, although sometimes, when the ground is hard and dry, they are very hard to pull. When my spirit is soft and malleable, it's fairly easy to arrest the sin in my life; when it's calloused and hard, it is much more difficult.

2. Where there is one goat-head, you'd better look around. Chances are there are more in the immediate vicinity. When I

recognize one sin in my life, I'd better take inventory of my life; chances are there are more areas that need attention.

3. If you ignore a patch of goat-heads, they don't just go away. They stay and produce seeds and the patch just gets bigger and bigger. If I ignore sin in my life, it doesn't just go away. It grows and produces more sin.

4. Goat-heads come in all shapes and sizes. Some are very tiny, with no blooms or thorns. They appear very harmless (like a "little white lie"). Others are huge, up to three feet in diameter, with dozens of thorns. Their potential for harm is very obvious; those are the plants (or sins) that are easy to spot, such as the ones listed in Galatians 5:19-21. But, if left untended, the "little white lies" will grow into big, destructive, obvious sins. That being said, it should be noted that sometimes a very small goat-head can still sport a seed or two. It's not just the "big sins" that affect our lives and the lives of those around us.

5. The only way to get rid of a patch of goat-heads is to pull them up by the root and destroy (burn) them. The only way to eradicate sin in my life is to get to the root of the problem and completely throw it out of my life. Picking away at it and just throwing away parts of it will only result in that sin coming back into my life and spreading its evil.

6. Until the goat-heads develop their thorns, they sport an attractive yellow flower and appear very harmless. But if left unhindered, they will produce thorns that not only cause much pain, but also provide the seed for more goat-heads. Sin is that way; it often appears harmless and

even attractive. But it will eventually always produce pain and more sin.

7. If left too long, even though you pull the goat-head up by the roots, it still drops some of its seeds on the soil, and there will inevitably be another generation of goat-heads grow in its place. Sin has consequences. It sprouts seeds in our lives and the lives of others. Even though we repent and stop sinning, if left too long the sin in our lives will produce more sin.

8. Finally, the experienced observer can spot a goat-head even without its flowers or thorns. Its leaves are similar to, but different from, any other plant. As I have matured in my Christian walk, it has become easier to spot sin in its beginning stages. We shouldn't need to wait until the painful thorns are produced to know that we need to eradicate sin.

If Adam and Eve had known that the result of their tasting the forbidden fruit would be thorns and thistles, would they have still tasted it? I don't know, but I'm quite certain that if they hadn't someone else would have. That's just the way we are. Sin, and goat-heads, are a part of our lives. I pray that I will be as consistent at spotting the sin in my life and as diligent about eradicating it as I am the goat-heads in my yard.

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