



SKYVIEW BULLETIN

Volume 9 Number 19

May 11, 2008

ARE WE LIKE SQUIRRELS?



Squirrels are interesting creatures. We have bird feeders in our back yard as well as a feeder for squirrels. After the squirrels remove all the food from the special squirrel feeder, they then begin devouring all the seeds from the bird feeders. I can watch through the sliding glass doors leading into the back yard and observe the frolicking of the squirrels. They will walk along the top rail of the deck and then jump to the feeder. They will run up and down the pole on which the feeder is mounted. It is not unusually to see two or three squirrels competing with each as they try to get the last few seeds

remaining in the feeder. They often chase each other up and down a near-by tree. They seem to be determined in pursuing their goal to obtain food.

That determination, however, seems to be lacking when a squirrel tries to cross a road in front of an automobile. No doubt all of us have driven down a road when a squirrel begins an uncertain trip across the road in front of us. As he starts to cross the road, he often halts. Then new resolve seems to be mustered up and he heads back across the pavement only to vacillate and hesitate and then to dart off in a different direction. I am sure the sound of the approaching automobile alarms the squirrel and brings about the indecision. He starts, stutters, panics and then proceeds.

Many people act like squirrels when it comes to their faithfulness as a Christian. They dart back and forth into duty. They seem to be undecided when it comes to important moral decisions. They start, pivot, turn away, stop, and then proceed. Many Christians are distracted by their surroundings and like a squirrel they oscillate back and forth in their service and obedience to God. The prophet Elijah asked Israel of old: *"How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."* But the people said nothing (I Kings 18:21). God's people, like squirrels, were wavering between Jehovah and idol gods. The KJV renders the word "waver" as "falter." How often do we falter in our devotion to God? We have the world and it's appeal calling out to us and we waver between God and the world. We dart from one to the other, we begin, and then stop. We go a little further and then we vacillate and dart off in another direction. Some Christians will faithfully attend the worship services for a while and then they will be absent for weeks. Then they are back for a time but it is not long before they dart back into the world and are overcome by the temptations of life. The squirrel provides a vivid contrast to the ordered life of a Christian. As a child of God, we should have a determination to not give in to the distractions around us.

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(Continued on back)

ELDERS

Ron Bastien
Don Greenlee
Charles Murray
David Roberts

DEACONS

Frank Edwards
Andy Murray
Don Shimp
Dennis Trask
Brad VanHaerents

PREACHER

Charles Murray

MEN WE SUPPORT

Frank Andre - Bartow, Fla.
William Stewart—Kingston, Canada
Matthew— S. Africa
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe
Mike Mendez—trip to Cuba
William John—Springfield, Mo

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Classes.....10:50 A.M.
Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WORSHIP PLACE

4050 80th Ave N
PO Box 3118
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780

WEB: skyviewchurch.org

FOR THE RECORD

May 2, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Sunday Morning	148
Sunday Evening	
Wednesday Evening	

There are several passages in the New Testament that describe how our lives should be as a Christian. When we read Paul's instructions to young Timothy in 2 Timothy chapter 2, we see several illustrations that show the importance of commitment, dedication and determination without faltering.

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and forth

Paul says we are to act like a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2:3). As a soldier, he says we must suffer hardship and not be distracted by the affairs of this life. He then compares a Christian to an athlete who runs the race according to the rules (verse 5). An athlete is not distracted by those on the side-lines. He keeps his mind centered on the goal, the prize, the award given to the winner. Finally, Paul compares the Christian to a farmer (verse 6). The farmer works hard in order to partake of the crops. He is not deterred by every little distraction. Instead of acting like a squirrel, we should be like a soldier, an athlete and a farmer.

We need to be reminded of what Jesus taught: *"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God"* (Luke 9:62). Once we begin our service as a Christian, there should be looking or turning back. We cannot falter or waver back and forth.

In talking about Christians as workers for the Lord, Paul wrote: *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth* (Tim 2:15). "A worker that does not need to be ashamed," is what Paul says we need to be. When we are a dedicated worker for the Lord, Paul says we will be approved by God. As a worker, we do not turn back once we have put our hand to the plow. As a worker approved by God, we do not stop, falter, start again, then stop and turn and go in a different direction. As an approved worker, we fight the good fight as a soldier, train as an athlete, and persevere as a farmer.

We have all seen squirrels who did not make it across the road. They were struck by an automobile and their life was ended. Their faltering, hesitating, being undecided and darting out into the street at the last minute, brought about their untimely death.

Our spiritual death is brought about by the same actions. When we are distracted from working and serving the Lord by the things around us, our spiritual life is in jeopardy. When we cannot decide whether to faithfully serve God or serve God half-heartedly, we are putting our souls in danger. When we dart back and forth, the devil will catch us in his snare. When we are Luke-warm, Jesus will vomit us out of his mouth (Revelation 3:16 NKJ).

The squirrels in my back yard are in a safe setting. There is food provided for them. There is really no reason for them to leave the security of the fenced-in back yard. But, they are curious animals, always darting here and there, looking for new territory, new sources of food.

A Christian has a safe haven and as long as we stay in this safe area, we will not be lured into the street of sin where there is danger. There is no need for us to look beyond Jesus. In Him we are complete. In Him we have forgiveness. In Him we have every spiritual blessing we need to service spiritually (Ephesians 1: 3-14). In Christ, Paul writes, we are "sealed" and we have Christ as the "guarantee" of our inheritance.

We can choose to live like a squirrel, darting back and forth, halting, faltering and being distracted by the things of this world. We can give into panic and the pull of the world and we can be killed spiritually. Or we can have the purpose and commitment of a soldier, athlete and farmer. We can persevere, and with dedication to the Lord, we can remain within the safe haven of safety provided by our relationship with Christ.

As Joshua of old, encouraged his people, we need to choose this day whom we will serve (Joshua 24:15). We can and must be a worker that God approves, a worker that is not ashamed, but one that is focused on the goal of heaven. May we each make the proper choice and so direct our lives.



**Adult—auditorium
class
1 Corinthians
Taught by
Charles Murray
Room # 4
The Prophets
Taught by
Jarred Shaw**

GOSPEL MEETINGS

FALL 2008

With Bob Owen