

July 23&24 The Turtle In All Of Us

While driving to and from Grand Rapids over the weekend, Mrs. Matthews helps us pass the time by reading from the "Answers In Genesis" magazine. This is a magazine for all Christians to read and learn. A couple of weeks ago in Indiana, I missed the exit as I listened to some wonderful proof of how God made everything, not the so-called coincidence of evolution. This trip I learned about various turtles and how God gave them the right instincts to survive. Sea turtles lay their eggs in an egg chamber that they dig with their flippers away from the ocean. Upon hatching, the normal reaction might be to go for the protection of the tall grass near the nest. If they did this, they would be easy prey for all kinds of predators and soon there would be no sea turtles. God has given them the instinct to go for the ocean. Go for it! When you get there, don't stick a flipper in to see how cold it is, just dive in! Dive in! This way, led by God's plan, they survive.

I like this story because it reminds us of what we seem to "naturally; sinfully" want in life. We figure that protection and all things meaningful come from our stuff; money in the bank or our good job, our health, good looks, and all the rest. We naturally; sinfully seek these things out from birth. Sadly, as it would be with the sea turtle, going in the logical, easy direction only leads to eternal pain and death. A life built on traveling away from God's plan is a disaster. Satan is a roaring lion or a hawk or an alligator ready to devour us. Turn away from Jesus and not pray leads us to be prey for the Devil. The A in pray is for the Almighty in us while the E in pray means our Ego rules.

Turtles who listen to their God-given instinct to seek out the ocean and dive in will survive. God's Word teaches us to seek out God's will for us to find hope and joy and real victory in life. Jesus died on the cross and rose to forgive us for our natural; sinful qualities and lead us to an ocean of love, joy, and hope. Like those baby sea turtles we need to seek out what really doesn't make sense; the ocean of God's love for poor, miserable sinners. In the water of your Baptism you found new life and hope.

Faith leads us to take the plunge that God has waiting. In one of the Indiana Jones movies, Indy, standing at a cliff has to take a step of faith on to an invisible bridge. Taking the step "looks" like the end, but once that step of faith is taken, the bridge appears. The Word of God assures us in Isaiah 41:10, "So do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Because God Is Good.....At All The Time, As we trust Jesus as our Savior and listen to God's Word, we can take a plunge of faith from a cliff of concern or into an ocean with our Omnipotent God. Our Lord tells us to trust His Word and will and Go For It! Dive In! He'll be with us every step of the way.

Amen.. .pastor matthews