

THE SOWER

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FROM WHENCE THE SNOWMAN?

Something I rarely see any more is a snowman. It seems they are not as common as they once were. I recall that in my younger years one of the first things I would want to do after a significant snowfall was to go out and build a snowman. I would form a snow ball, roll it through the snow to form a much larger ball, and then repeat the process to form the smaller upper torso and a still smaller head, which I would place on the lower ball. Then I'd put two chunks of coal for the eyes, and more chunks for the mouth, and sometimes a carrot for a nose.. With a couple branches as arms, and a hat on its head, I would have my own snowman. Just imagine after I had completed my creation another child had come along and asked; "Who made the snowman," and I had replied, "Nobody. It just happened." He then replies, "What do you mean it 'just happened'?" Then I would say, "It sort of evolved. A lot of flakes just happened to fall in this particular area, piled up on top of each other; and then the wind picked up, picking up these lumps of coal from the coal pile, a discarded carrot, the sticks from the ground, and an old hat nearby, and

putting everything in the right place to form the snowman." I would imagine my little friend would start laughing and perhaps say, "That's a bigger whopper than Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny!" And he would be right.

Yet that is, in essence, much like what supposedly learned biology teachers are telling youngsters every day. No creator would be involved. God cannot even be mentioned in an American classroom. All of our body parts are said to have somehow evolved on their own. The result has been far more complex and amazing than a snowman could ever be. The maker of the snowman is not only more complex than any snowman, but has one thing a snowman will never have—life. Of course it took umpteen millions of years, but eventually a man and a woman at the same time resulted, with every part intact and in full operation. In fact, the learned teacher will inform the classroom-captives, that not only the human race, but all of creation (that has no Creator) just happened. Even winged creatures

evolved from wingless animals, their front legs evolving into wings. No explanation is given as to how these poor creatures had survived predator attacks for a few million years while their legs were useless as legs, and not yet wings as well. Nor will there be explanations why we do not still see creatures in cross-over stages from one kind to another. They are as rare as snowmen that just happened.

-Ron

“When men proudly declare that they are atheists and deny there is any evidence for belief in an almighty and eternal God, they are pitting their wits against clear evidence to the contrary.” (William Still)

“Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature.”

Benjamin Franklin, *Maxims and Morals*

ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR?

What does it mean to be a Christian? First, it means to belong to Christ, which means, first of all, that one is in Christ, where is found “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (Eph. 1:3)—not the least of which is redemption (v. 7).

But belonging to Christ is not a one-sided affair. Since the Christian belongs to Christ, the Christian is an **ambassador for Christ** (2 Corinthians 5:20). The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians that he and the other apostles were quite literally ambassadors for Jesus on this earth (2 Cor. 5:20-6:3); but that responsibility was hardly limited to the apostles, for he then goes on to encourage them to behave likewise—i.e., to behave as Christ’s ambassadors (6:14ff).

What does it mean to be an “ambassador”? Consider, for instance,

the ambassador for a nation. Such a one understands that his behavior directly reflects on the nation which he represents, and, for that reason, he understands the extreme importance of being on his best behavior. Likewise, Olympic athletes are representatives of their home countries: thus their behavior—good or bad—will reflect accordingly upon their respective countries.

In the same way—unjust though it may be—the Christian’s behavior directly reflects on Christ and His church. Therefore, Christians should heed the advice of the apostle Peter: “Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation” (1 Peter 2:12)—for Christians are Christ’s ambassadors on earth!

--Seth Myers, Sullivan

THE PARABLE OF THE PORCUPINE

It was the coldest winter ever—many animals died because of the cold. The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together. This way they covered and protected themselves; the problem was that the quills of each one wounded their closest companions even though they gave off heat to each other.

After awhile they decided to distance themselves one from the other—but they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth.

Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. They learned to live with the little wounds that were caused by the close relationship with their companions, but the most important part of it was the heat that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.

Moral of the story: The best relationships are not the ones that bring together perfect people. The best ones are when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other person's good qualities. -Source unknown

The article above reminds me of a joke—

QUESTION: What did the young porcupine say when he backed into a cactus?

ANSWER: He said, “Is that you, Mommy?”)

“THE WORLD’S WONDERFUL BOOK” will be today’s message, with Psa. 119:129 as the text.

PRAYER LIST: Ruby Bradd (Clinton) has under-gone surgery to remove an adrenal-gland cancer, and continues on medication. *** Wayne Polk (minister, Shelbyville) is improving in his hardening of the arteries in his legs, and will soon be undergoing cataract surgeries. *** Mary’s nephew, Gavin, is serving in Iraq. Remember those in service to our country. *** Remember the many, especially in communist and Islamic nations, being persecuted for their faith in Christ.