

Neighborly News

Brought to you courtesy of your friends at Mt. Hebron Church of Christ

The greatest thing you can do

The greatest thing anyone can do for God and man is pray. It is not the only thing, but it is the chief thing. The great people of earth are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take the time to pray.

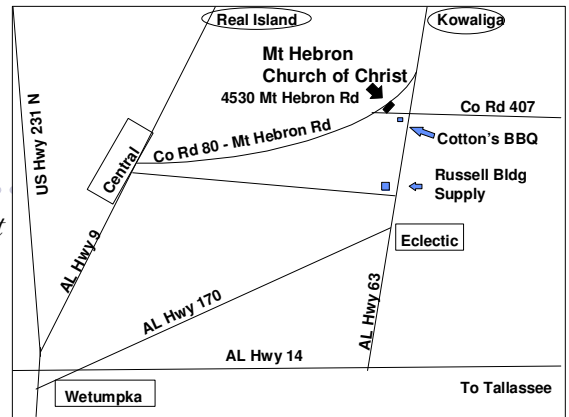
—S.D. Gordon



Throwing stones?

Jimmy's mother, a believer in the be-a-little-gentleman-and-don't-fight school of upbringing was trying to instill this noble outlook into her pugnacious young son. "Jimmy, when that naughty boy threw stones at you, why didn't you come and tell me instead of throwing them back?"

"Well what good would that do?" snorted Jimmy. "You can't hit the side of a barn."



**Mt. Hebron Church
of Christ**
P.O. Box 240159
4530 Mt. Hebron Rd.
Eclectic, Ala. 36024
Come and visit us
Sunday
Bible Classes 10:00 AM
Worship Services
11:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Can the God of love hate?

It is unbelievable to some people that God could hate. They consider Him as only a God of love. The reasoning is based on the major premise that God is love. That is true. The minor premise is that love is the opposite of hate, and that is also true. Then the conclusion they draw is that God cannot hate anything, but that is not true. God is love, but he hates evil.

We see this same principle in human relationships. You love your little child, but you hate the illness that is in his body. You love your child, but you hate the mad dog with the foaming mouth that comes into your yard and

attempts to bite your child. If you love the child, you will hate the mad dog. As long as there is a world of contrasts, a world in which sin has entered, we will love the right and hate the wrong. Or, on the other hand, if you love sin, then you will hate righteousness (John 3:20).

The Word of God tells us to love the good and hate the evil. There is "a time to love, and a time to hate . . ." (Ecclesiastes 3:8). In Proverbs, chapter six, we read: "There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers." God definitely says that He hates these things, and we ought to put them on our "hate list" also. This is not the first time God has stated that He hates something. You see other examples in Deuteronomy 16:22, Psalms 45:7, and Revelation 2:6. May we "hate what is evil, cling to what is good" (Romans 12:9).

—CLARK TATUM

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

Most of us have seen the comic strip character Spiderman. The premise of the character is fictitious and pure fantasy, not even good science-fiction, but the nature of spider webbing continues to be an area that researchers are finding very incredible. Spider web material is about one tenth the diameter of a human hair, but it is ten times stronger than steel on a weight-for-weight basis. As chemists study the dragline silk — the part of the spider web that makes up the spokes of a spider's web — they find that the chemical makeup is a demonstration of genius level designing.

Two proteins make up dragline silk. Each protein contains three regions with distinct properties. The first makes a form that is called amorphous. An amorphous material is a plastic material like bubble gum that is stretchable. This is what gives the spider's web its huge elasticity, so when the spider's prey hits the web, it stretches and does not break. Embedded in the amorphous parts of the web are two kinds of crystalline material. These crystalline materials toughen the web. They are tightly pleated and resist stretching, but only one of them is truly rigid. What happens is that the pleats of the less rigid material anchors the rigid crystals to the matrix producing massive strength in the whole matrix.

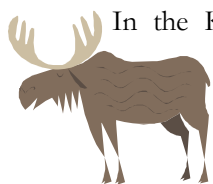
One of the reasons that massive research is being done on spider webs is that all of this chemical design has enormous numbers of applications for new fabrics and fibers. Chemists are learning from their examination of web materials about things that science was totally unaware of until recent years. It is pretty obvious that a Master Chemist has designed these materials to meet specific needs of animals in the natural world, and man's ability to copy what God has done continues to give man the solutions to his problems and a hope for a better tomorrow. This same Designer has a plan for each of our lives, and that plan is also full of the same level of wisdom and the purpose of God.

— Reference: Scientific American, October 2002, page 107



Synchronized Birth

designs seen in nature is the amazing balance between prey and predator. To keep plant-eating animals from totally cleaning out all vegetation, there is a need to control their population. To avoid eating all the plant eaters, there is a need to control predator's numbers. There is a large number of ways in which this is accomplished. One way that plant-eating animals avoid over-predation in Alaska is a phenomenon biologists call "synchronized birth."



In the Kenai Peninsula, there are about 6,500 moose. The black bear, brown bear, and wolf population adds up to about 4,000. These predators eat sick and injured moose year around, but they will also eat baby moose during the first few days of their lives if they can find them. If the baby moose were born over a month

or two period of time, this predation could make a sizable dent in the moose population. As it is, all baby moose are born on the same day — May 25th. Within a day or two, the babies are capable of speed and mobility and no longer vulnerable to predators. The ultimate result is that very few baby moose are eaten by predators.

Caribou use the same process to reduce predation of their young. Maintaining a balance between food and population is a struggle mankind has not mastered yet, but God's design is a great and working system that only gets into trouble when man interferes with it. These systems are highly complex and are minimally understood by man. Chance is a poor explanation for all of this design. Complexity of this nature is only possible by intelligence of the highest order.



— Reference: Alaska, October 2001, page 13