

SQUIRRELLY

While sitting at the breakfast table the other morning, my wife and I marveled at the colorful birds which flocked to the two bird feeders we have in our backyard. A bushy-tailed gray squirrel invaded their territory and scattered the birds. He was content to scamper around eating the seeds on the ground for a period of time, but soon began casting greedy eyes up toward the feeders. My wife asked, "How do you think he knows to look up?" I answered that God must have given him the intuition to know that anything on the ground must have come from above. If that's the case, that puts him and his kind about two steps ahead of some folks we can observe in our world.

In the vernacular of our day and time, one who acts "squirrelly" is one who uses questionable judgment, or no judgment at all. In fact, Webster's Dictionary defines the word 'squirrelly' as: *Extremely odd, or crazy.*

Using that definition, one might surmise that the woods and streets of our country are lined with folks so inclined. Myriads of individuals and families come by our congregation in the course of a year's time, looking for a handout. Some appear to need it, while others send mixed signals with their plea. One man drove up on a Sunday morning, in a big Cadillac automobile, and got rather huffy after blurting that he was in desperate need of a sizeable amount of cash, which we made no effort to give him. We usually offer food, lodging, or gasoline, as needs require (if the plea seems on the up and up), but this 'needy' fellow wanted nothing but cash. He drove off in a hurry when we explained that we rarely give money to those who are asking for help. To say the least, this fellow was a bit 'squirrelly.'

Some folks appear to think that their prosperity stems solely from their superior intellect, or their pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps. When things go sour, however, there is always someone else to blame. It was the boss, the spouse, the weather, the government, the stock market or the creditor's fault. Rarely does one look squarely at himself in the mirror and exclaim, "That squirrelly fellow is the problem."

The lazy, the dilatory, the lethargic should take note of the following: "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways and be wise; which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." (Proverbs 6:6-8). Prosperity doesn't usually come dressed in a tuxedo! Mostly it comes dressed in work clothes! Then more than all this, those who fail to recognize the source of all their blessings should consider, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights..." (James 1:17). One would have to be a bit *squirrelly* not to see this, according to my way of looking at things. Yep, a bit 'squirrelly.'

Bob Howton

Three Things That Satan Wants You To Do!

We who are Christians have a cunning, deceitful, and busy enemy. He seeks to turn those who follow God away. He even tempted our Lord. His name is **SATAN**. Concerning him and his activity, Scripture says, "*Be sober. be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that art in the world*" (1 Peter 5:8-9).

Christian, notice three courses of action in the above text:

- (1) Be sober, that is, be aware, alert, and awake.
- (2) Be vigilant, that is, be watchful, careful, and on guard.
- (3) Resist, that is, struggle against, and don't give in to.

Consider three things that the devil wants to do:

1. Satan Wants To Keep You Out Of The Lord's Church. The saved are in the church (Acts 2:47). But the devil doesn't want you to become a Christian; he doesn't want you to be part of the saved. You who are reading these words, who have never obeyed the gospel, are right where Satan wants you to be. He is happy! The church preaches the gospel (Ephesians 3:10), glorifies God (Ephesians 3:21), and acts under the leadership of Christ (Colossians 1:18), so Satan is glad you are not part of this activity—he already has you!

2. Satan Wants To Get You Back Into The World. If Satan doesn't succeed in keeping you out of the church, he will do everything he can to get you back into the world. Certainly the Bible teaches that a Christian can stop serving God and return to the pollutions of the world (2 Peter 2:20-22; Hebrews 10:28-31), and Satan will rejoice if that happens to you. He has succeeded in the past (2 Timothy 4:10; James 4:4), and will be working hard to weaken your faith, corrupt your morals, exhaust your resolve, undermine your convictions, and get you to quit the service of God. If you let him, then he will succeed!

3. Satan Wants To Make You Worthless To The Cause Of Christ. If Satan can't keep you out of the church or get you back into the world, he will try to make you ineffective to the cause of Christ. He will seek to get you uninvolved in the church and her work. We are to be zealous and active in the service of God (1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; James 2:17), so if Satan can keep us ignorant and apathetic, make us lazy and discouraged, get us self-absorbed and self-concerned, he will be successful in making you totally worthless to the cause of Christ. But he cannot do this if you don't let him!

Are you a Christian? Are you active and involved in the work of God? Are you seeking first the kingdom? If not, you have succumbed to the enemy! Don't be ignorant of Satan's devices (2 Corinthians 2:11). Resist the devil (James 4:7). Be vigilant against the old serpent (Revelation 12:9-10). Don't befriend the world (1 John 2:15-17). Always allow God to guide your life in all ways and at all times!

Copied from Northside Anchor, Calhoun, Georgia

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Remember in Prayer:

Jim Johnson went to Memphis Thursday for a checkup after his stem cell transplant.
Gloria Thomas has been in extremely critical condition in St. Bernards.
Darlene Felts was to be moved back to Phil and Flo Jones Hospice last Wednesday.
Karen Kalkbrenner was admitted to St. Bernards on Wednesday after suffering breathing problems due to Covid.
Jane Brewer continues to be very ill at her home.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists. Please update us if needed. Also please pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.

Some in this list may have ended or are near the end of their quarantine period.

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| <i>J. L. & Brenda May, Rusty Blanks</i> | <i>Mark, Amber, Brinley, & Baylee Wooten</i> |
| <i>Karen Kalkbrenner, Louis & Myra Preston</i> | <i>Jamie Holland, Stacy Williams</i> |
| <i>Randy, Reta, & Cheryl Oden</i> | <i>Ben, Brandi, & Branch Johns</i> |
| <i>Jody & Susan Pickens</i> | <i>Hillard Holcomb's daughter Teresa (St. Bernards)</i> |
| <i>Sheryl Taylor</i> | <i>Marshall & Lila Lands</i> |

In Other News:

Our Sympathy is extended to the family of Nicole Nelson. Her funeral was in Kennett this past Tuesday. Please remember Craig and all of Nicole's family in your prayers.
Our Sympathy is also extended to the family of Donna London, sister-in-law of Coy London. She passed away in McCrory this past week.

All of our Bible classes except those in the auditorium have been cancelled for 2 weeks.

All activities except the Holiday Baskets on the December calendar have been cancelled. There is a sign-up list in the foyer to bring holiday basket food items to include in the baskets.

Those Privileged To Serve
December 6, 2020

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK
Week Of
November 29, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING
 Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
 Opening Prayer: Hal Baugh
 Closing Prayer: Ben Johns
 Bible Reading: Jimmie Powell
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

SUNDAY EVENING
 Song Leader: Mark Wooten
 Opening Prayer: Logan Snyder
 Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE
 Presiding: Scottie Blanchard
 Mitch Mosley Barry Roush
 David Loggins Reginald Read
 Stacy Eddleman Ryan Manley

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
December 9, 2020
 Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
 Opening Prayer: Steve Stoker
 Closing Prayer: Kevin Roush

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Dan Nichols

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER
December 9, 2020
Noah Flanrey

Sunday Bible Study	64
Sunday AM Worship	92
Sunday PM Worship	68
Wednesday Bible Study	42
Contribution	\$3,932

“The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.”

Proverbs 20:12

The Friend of Truth



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Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

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“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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KeeNotes

Thanksgiving is now behind us and we are quickly approaching a new year. With the end of the month coming we look forward to better times and less stress and troubles for a new year. This year has been one unlike any we have experienced before. I do not know of anyone who is desiring another year like this one ever again.

During the end of another year we should sit down and pray, giving thanks for all that God has done for us and continues to do for us. Even with the trials of 2020 we have much for which to give thanks. In many ways we have had to stop and focus on what is truly important in our lives. Many of the material things have little meaning during these times. Health and happiness are more important than many of the things we have focused on in the past.

If you are ever caught up in the affairs of this life, sit still and listen to a child pray. In such innocence they are praying for things most of us forget to stop and think about. Our children pray for the little pleasures that come our way. The sun that warms us and the breeze that cools us along with all the other mostly overlooked blessings that come our way, do not escape the minds of our little ones. They pray for the sick and suffering in such tender and compassionate ways.

As I write these lines I am mindful of so many who are suffering with this virus and the effects it is having in our families and in the church. I am so very thankful that most everyone is better and continues to improve from week to week. Maybe it will only be a few more days until we can all be back to some semblance of normalcy. Bless you and may we all keep our eyes on the goal.

- SHEPHERDS**
 Dan Nichols
 Randy Oden
 Jody Pickens
- DEACONS**
 Scottie Blanchard
 Jerry Dodson
 Mike Felts
 Jason Garland
 Marshall Lands
 Mark Wooten
- EVANGELIST**
 Terry Joe Kee
- MISSIONARIES**
 Michael Hughes
 Samrit Kammanee
 Arnold Kelley
 Guyana, South America
 Warren, PA
 Micah Robertson, Montana
- SERVICES**
SUNDAY
 Classes 9:00 a.m.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.
 5:00 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY**
 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?
Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17
Believe the Word of God
John 8:24
Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3
Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10
Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
Acts 2:38
Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”
Proverbs 29:18

God Give Us 2020 Vision in 2020