

NSD Notes

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)
Volume 1 No. 12 March 22, 2009

Services

- Bible Study 10 a.m.
- Morning Service.....11 a.m.
- Evening Service.....6 p.m.
- Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

News @ NSD

WELCOME VISITORS!

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

- **Dema Franklin** – recuperating at home; she is making progress and looking forward to being back out to worship.
- **Martha Holloway** – recurring back and heart condition.
- **Janna Wells** – recurring respiratory condition.
- **Jeanne Lynne** - undergoing chemotherapy treatment.
- **Chuck Holloway** (Ken’s brother) and **Benjamin Hoskins** (Daniel’s Dad).
- **Jason Henderson** – travelling for work.
- **Ernest Peeples** – deployed in the Persian Gulf.

Memory verse for this week

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

LIFE LESSONS FROM GEESE

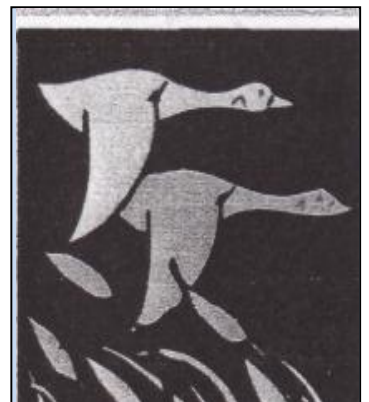
The 30th chapter of Proverbs is interesting for a number of different reasons, but I have grown to appreciate it from the standpoint of taking time to learn from some of the simpler things of life. After the author had taken the time to show that the Word of God should serve as a true shield to all and that none should be so hold so as to add to His words (verses 5-6), he directs his thoughts to the realm of nature and things most of us would not give a second thought towards (verses 24-31). In all honesty, I wouldn't normally have my thoughts focused on **Proverbs 30**, but as I looked at a cup I recently received, that is exactly where my thoughts drifted.

The outside of the cup offers up several lessons from geese that we humans would do well to learn and apply. But as I considered the various lessons, I thought how much of an impact they have in a spiritual sense.

Lesson one is that as each goose flaps its wings, it creates and uplift for others behind it. As a result there is a 71% increase in flying range in a V formation than in flying alone! It is true that when people share a common goal and sense of purpose they can achieve their goal more easily. Consider

what Paul pens to the brethren in Ephesus, *"..from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part.." (Ephesians 4:16).*

This ties in as well with **Lesson two**, which shows that when a goose flies out of formation, it feels drag and tries to get back into position. As humans we have the mental capacity to know that it is harder to do something alone than with somebody (see **1 Cor. 12:13ff**) We need each other.



Lesson three that can be learned from geese is that as they fly those in the rear of the formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up the speed. All of us know that encouragement is motivating. We need to be certain that our encouragement is positive and spurring others forward. The author of Hebrews points out, *"...Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24).* Remember the aspect to



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All are welcome to our worship
and study meetings!

... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with
thankfulness in your hearts to God. **Col 3:16**

O LORD, make me know my end
and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!
Behold, you have made my days
a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.
Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!
Surely a man goes about as a shadow!
Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;
man heaps up wealth and does
not know who will gather!
And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.

Psalm 39:4-7

Praise the Lord His glories show
Saints within His courts below
Angels round His throne above
All that see and share His love

Earth to heav'n and heav'n to earth
Tell his wonders, sing His worth
Age to age and shore to shore
Praise Him, praise Him evermore

Praise the Lord, His mercies trace
Praise His providence and grace
All that He for man hath done
All He sends us through His Son

Phoebe Palmer Knapp

[Life Lessons from Geese]

encouragement carries the idea of "putting courage into another". Let us strive to embolden one another, and work in such a way as to realize our shared purpose and goal. In short, let us resolve to make certain our "honking" is not bringing about discouragement, "*but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment*".

Lesson four is seen when a goose gets sick or wounded and falls, two geese fall out and stay with it until it revives or dies. They then will catch up with the flock or join another flock and provide their part. In life, at one time or another each one of us will need help. We should be willing to accept that help when the time arises, as well as being willing to stand by others during their times of crisis. "*Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.*" (**Rom. 15:1-2**) "*Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.*" (**Gal. 6:2**)

Pretty amazing what we can learn from geese isn't it? But then again, there is a lot we can learn if we will simply open up our eyes. Take the time to go back over and read **Proverbs 30:24-31**. Think long and hard about the lessons that are there to be gleaned.

Excerpted from The Bulwark, July 20, 2008

THE EXHAUSTING CHRISTIAN LIFE

Some of us tend to drive ourselves too hard by sheer willpower, then say that the Christian life is an exhausting and bitter one. We have forced ourselves to be something we are not.

I guess, Father, the reason I think I can please you with willpower is because I still tend to think that I can perform in the spiritual world with *my abilities* instead of accepting your words, "Apart from me you can do nothing."

Willpower may be acceptable in the business community, but it is only the will yielded to your power that will be accepted in the halls of heaven.

I can do everything through him who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:5),

This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty (Zechariah 4:6)

John Maisel, © 1982 Regal Books

ELDERS: Dan Austin, Robyn E. Hamilton

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