

PARABLE OF THE BEAVER

Int.

1. Aim: To show some of the good habits of the beaver that every Christian should imitate.
2. Parables were used by Christ to teach the people
 - a. Mt. 13:24 "Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:"
 - b. Used them throughout his teachings
 - c. Used things with which they were familiar to teach them spiritual living
3. Some of the parables were about things in nature
 - a. Parable of the fig tree, sower & seed -- PLANT LIFE
 - b. Some were about ANIMAL LIFE - lost sheep Lk. 15: 3-7
4. This lesson is a parable about a very interesting animal - the beaver
 - a. He has some habits and ways or life that are very good
 - b. Christians should imitate these to live a better life. !

Discussion

I. EAGER BEAVER

- A. Beaver has this reputation
 1. Expression such as "Eager Beaver" or "Busy as a beaver"
 2. He is a hard worker - cuts trees to build dams, to build homes and for food
 3. He rarely stops to rest, he keeps chipping at the tree until it begins to fall then he slows down and proceeds carefully until it falls

B. Christians

1. Ecl. 9:10 "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."
2. Work of a Christian. is not cutting down trees - but cutting down sin and building up the church
 - a. Pure life
 - b. Teach fellow man
 - c. Help those who are in need
3. Jn. 9:4 "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."
 - a. Our life is short - Jas. 4:14 = vapor
 - b. Don't waste life by:
 - (1) Being Idle
 - (2) Fighting or fussing in life
 - (3) Doing useless work
 - c. Work hard at work that is worthwhile
 - d. Be an eager Christian - every member at work

II. EVERY THING IS DONE METHODICALLY

A. Beaver works methodically

1. Limbs and trees of same length are laid together
2. When dam is first built, water seeps through but he methodically stops up the holes with sticks and mud and leaves
3. Construction of dam is so solid that a man, a horse or even a jeep can go over the dam after it has set for a while.

- B. Christians should also work methodically - not sloppily or lazily
1. I Cor. 14:40 "Let all things be done decently and in order."
 - a. Worship specifically referred to
 - b. Regularly, without confusion or discord
 - c. Also applies to all the work Christians do
 2. Paul on missionary journey's
 - a. Went to place where people were
 - b. If people would not listen he would shake dust off his feet and go to someone else - Acts 13:51
 3. Methodic work gets more done and in a better way
 4. Humans like beavers work better when they do it methodically -

III. BEAVER KEEPS HIS LODGE IN GOOD REPAIR

- A. A Beaver lives in a lodge
1. Adds poles and limbs when needed
 2. Uses mud to cement up the patches
 3. He keeps his lodge in better repair than most people do their house
- B. Christians should keep their soul in good repair
1. Soul is part of man that is eternal - part of us that is really alive
 2. Ought to keep it in good repair
 3. III Jn. 2 "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."
 4. Many times our soul needs repairing
 - a. Sin - need to have these forgiven - repent and pray - Acts 8:22
 - b. Weak- read, study, pray

IV. BEAVERS DO NOT LET SOCIETY STOP THEM

A. Beavers

1. They don't care about the confining influences of civilization
2. They have work to do and they do it no matter what society does
3. In Maine they built a dam near the mouth of a culvert that carried water under a road. It flooded 50 ft. of road and much of the nearby land
4. Nature sometimes does not provide trees near the stream
 - a. He digs canals to float his logs
 - b. Sometimes makes them 1,000 feet or longer
 - c. Can build canals on different levels, using river water and spring water

B. Christians must do their work

1. Many Christians let modern society keep them from doing the work of a Christian
2. Some make excuses for not doing the work of a Christian & society is the cause they say:
 - a. Pure life - someone may laugh at us or call us a chicken if we live pure
 - b. Teaching others - don't have time - too much to do in making a living
 - c. Helping Needy - no opportunity - all we know are able or have help
3. These are just excuses
4. Don't let society stop you, go ahead with your work, even if you have to find opportunities
5. Acts 20:24 "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

6. Acts 21:13 "Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

V. BEAVER NEVER STOPS GROWING

A. Beaver

1. The secret of his ability to do such great work is that he never stops growing
2. Average weight is 45 to 50 pounds - can weigh 100 lbs or more - IIO record
3. Can live for 20 years but average is 10
4. He has 4 powerful - ever growing, self sharpening, chisel teeth

B. Christians must never stop growing

1. Heb. 5:12-6:1
 - a. They had heard carelessly or had not continued to hear
 - b. Infant Christians take milk
 - c. Meat belongs to mature Christians
2. II Pet. 3:18 "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."
3. I Pet.2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"
4. II Thes. 1:3 "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;"

VI. BEAVER IS A GOOD FAMILY MAN

- A. Beaver family - called a colony
 - 1. Little beavers learn from parents
 - 2. Pa takes care of little repairs but if major repairs are needed the whole family pitches in and helps
 - 3. NO beaver delinquent children
 - 4. Beavers do not fight among themselves
 - 5. They do not need welfare, they are never hungry
 - 6. Mr. & Mrs. Beaver stay happily married for life - no divorce, no separations
- B. Christian family
 - 1. Teach children - Eph. 6:4
 - 2. Happy obedient children - Eph. 6:1-2
 - 3. NO fighting families
 - 4. Provide for own household - I Tim. 5:8
 - 5. Happily married - Mt. 19:3-9 - till death do us part

Conclusion

- 1. The life of this animal provides an example that can help all Christians live better
 - a. We can be an eager beaver and be busy as a beaver in Christian work
 - b. The best way to accomplish the most work is to work methodically
 - c. Keep your soul in good repair
 - d. Beavers do not let society stop them from doing their work
 - e. Continue to grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord
 - f. Christians have a good family and are happily married for life.
- 2. If you are smart as a beaver then you will imitate these good things in your Christian life

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Night March 4, 2007
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org