



Bethany Lutheran Church & Preschool
5051 McCarty Road
Saginaw, MI 48603
www.bethanysaginaw.com
Phone: 989-793-9579

Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

When God Bugs Us ~ September 24, 2015

If it takes bugs to keep us focused on Christ, our loving God will use them.

[Online Version & Archive](#)

The Crowne Plaza hotel in Times Square, Manhattan, promises to welcome you with “the finest accommodations, upscale hospitality and first-class service.” And also with bedbugs. That’s the word according to an anonymous guest who recently posted her complaint at an online registry that tracks bedbug infestations.

The good news is that this hotel guest, who suffered approximately 20 bites over two nights, still managed to compliment the Crowne Plaza for their prompt attention. Management dry cleaned her clothes, disinfected her luggage, provided meal and drink vouchers, and then transferred her to the nearby Hilton hotel. Better safe than sorry, right?

You’re forgiven if you thought that bedbugs died off with Triceratops. And for all practical purposes, bedbugs were eradicated in the industrialized world for the past half-century. But, as entomologists explain, some of these parasitic insects survived over time and have now become tolerant to the pesticides that once easily eliminated them. Therefore, we now have a growing plague on our hands, err, I mean, in our beds. Find out for yourself at the bedbugregistry.com which shows how the plight is spreading across America like a Biblical plague.

Because world-class hotels and businesses are losing the war, some entomologists are looking back into history, to research what remedies and techniques our ancestors employed to fight off these blood-sucking bugs. And this, my friends, is why bedbugs bite in the first place!

When Adam and Eve rebelled against our Good and Generous God, and infected paradise with sin, God had a choice (so to speak). He could do the logical and just thing and walk away from these mortally wounded, sin-infected creatures; or he could do the unthinkable and illogical thing, and rescue them and their sin-inflicted descendents (that would be us).

“Grace” is what the Bible calls this crazy motive God feels to save us sinners. Grace means undeserved love that cannot be earned. Grace describes why God chose to be our Savior God and how he immediately rushed to his fallen creatures to proclaim his plan of salvation (Genesis 3, especially verse 15). And it gets even more fantastic because this plan of salvation would culminate in God Himself being impaled to a cross, in a highly prophesied act of redemption, in which God paid the unimaginable price to forgive all mankind.

It's in this context-- when God is showing incredible grace for his sin-infected creatures-- when God announced the curse of sin (Genesis 3:14-24). To lovingly demonstrate to prideful, self-centered, spiritually brain-dead humans just how damming our sins of lust, gossip, greed and lying really are (just to mention a few of our pet sins), God cursed the blue-prints and schematics of nature.

While it's the curse of sin behind the reason why bedbugs are now ravenous pests that suck our blood, God by his grace also uses bedbugs for his saving purposes. God uses the curse of sin to frustrate humans to the point where we abandon our arrogance and humbly turn back to the Bible to find what our ancestors were taught about the power of sin, and the need for the Savior Jesus Christ.

And even for us who are already blessed to trust in Jesus as "the way, the truth and the life" the different manifestations of the curse of sin serve us in reminding us that Jesus' home in heaven is our real home. How many believers lost their focus on Jesus and got sucked down the toilet of making this world our all-in-all? So many have, the Loving Lord uses critters like bedbugs to help us refocus us on how we are pilgrims passing through a sin-infected world as we await our call home to heaven.

If it's a blight of bedbugs that keeps our love for this world subdued, so that the joy of Jesus continually captivates us in a growing faith, then God be praised for his ingenious use of bugs that bite.

To become a recipient of Viewpoints, please email mike.nitz@bethanysaginaw.com and simply type the phrase "VP please" in the subject line. Or if you wish to no longer receive Viewpoints, type the phrase "discontinue VP" in the subject line. Thanks.

Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

