



Jeff Sweeten

Thus Saith the Lord

A LIZARD

By Jeff Sweeten

Some time back, I was privileged to listen in on a story from a good friend about a childhood incident. The experiences our elders share from “back in the day” are always fascinating because memory is interestingly innovative and time often enhances the accounts. However, with this particular tale, and especially due to the man’s impeccable character, I immediately accepted it as factual, at least as well as memory can serve.

So, the setting was back before child labor laws forbade parents from working their children in the fields and before almost-new, name-brand pants were \$50+ off the retail rack (and that’s just obscene!). This amusing account may not resonate with younger audiences but some are aware of the hard times our parents, grandparents and so forth went through (and are tired of hearing about it). Hopefully, they appreciate those farm-life incidents that left lasting impressions.

Like the time – as he described it – when he was working in a field as a young boy and a lizard crawled up the inside of his pant leg. Now, with Ray Steven’s Squirrel that went berserk in the First-Self-Righteous Church that crawled up Ms. Bertha Better-Than-You’s knickers droning in the background of my mind, he told this story, describing a panic and anxiety that would cause a high-stepping young lad to brandish his handy pocket knife and literally cut a hole in his jeans around this lizard he had in a death grip in order to halt the reptile’s progress toward his nether-regions. Of course, the real punchline came in his trying to explain to his mother the cause of this gaping hole in his new, barely-affordable jeans.

So, how intense should our desire be to save a soul from an eternal Hell? You see, the panic and anxiety of a lizard moment is rarely Satan’s modus operandi concerning our eternity. He’d prefer promoting the fantasy of “we’ve got plenty of time,” while he employs the sneaky, methodical, barely perceptible invitation to doom, transforming “*himself into an angel of light*” (2 Corinthians 11:14), kind of like the frog that gets boiled to death as the heat in the waterpot increases. After all, few of us expect to die tomorrow and, on top of that, we are still alive today. Right? But that ol’ wily Serpent, Satan, “*walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*” (1 Peter 5:8); that, friend, is panic! So, we must be vigilant to avoid the slow-boiling frog in the water snooze as well as the lizard up the pant leg panic.

Your soul’s wellbeing should be a concern “*whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away*” (James 4:14). If the slow-boiling frog method doesn’t work, the lizard up the pant leg will. Therefore, whichever critter evokes whatever response, “*make your call and election sure*” (2 Peter 1:10). It’s not just about a lizard.

Thus Saith the Lord
is presented by the

Park Heights Church of Christ

1300 E. Boynton St.
Hamilton
254-386-3953

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Please call or email if you
have a question or comment
254-386-3953

jeffdsweeten@gmail.com or
chelejones24@yahoo.com

Website:
www.parkheightscoc.com