

Trees, People and Prayer

Dormancy is ending and Spring is again proving that after death there's life. The book of James says that our days are like a flower of the field. When gone, it's place doesn't even acknowledge it any longer. That's what our life will be, no matter how successful. Remember the song "Dust in the Wind"? . However Psalm 1 says "How blessed is the man who delights himself in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditates both day and night, he shall be like a tree planted by the river, who bears fruit in season, it's leaf does not wither and everything he does will prosper..."The wicked are not so, they are like chaff which the wind drives away..."

The president of the St. Louis Arboist association and I had a short discussion about creation versus evolution a couple falls ago outside the conference room at Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood. As he matter of factly explained the Oak tree we were standing next to as a product of evolution, I picked up one of it's acorns and asked him how educated men can understand the concept of intelligent design and information contained in a computer chip, but don't get the same concept in the acorn of the oak...God's computer chip. Boy scouts I had once shared this with understood it. Though they did not all know the workings of a computer chip, they did understand that someone had written the Oak's blueprint and design, 'hardware and software' together into the acorn.

Certain trees like the Sugar Maple (a climax tree rising in the woods of Jefferson county) and certain species of the Oaks and Hickories will retain some of their leaves over the winter. If the wind and rain hasn't helped discard them, then the new growth quietly, and assuredly casts them off. It can be the same with you and God. You know there is no way you can shed the old nature. You are stuck. Bound by the old traditions, mindsets, sins unbeliefs, and doctrines, the desicated and dried up leaves cling to the soul. You can't shake them; someone else can, and will.

Rebirth in nature is directed in the spring by wind, by moon. It is in rythm and in symphony with earth, and with sun and rain, and with the Spirit Himself. In a tree, all growth begins with cell division that takes place in the cambium, hovering between inner and outer bark. You cannot see it, but it's there, directing new cells inward and new cells outward, itself being but one cell layer thick. That is where new growth can begin to happen in a person, where they cannot see it, but sense it , the Spirit moving in you and through you. It is awesome. And old leaves fall off.

St Patrick was an evangelist in the fourth century who brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to a violent Ireland . He risked his life confronting the Druid priests who had control over the Kings of Ireland. They used demonic activity to keep the whole nation in spiritual bondage and fear, but Patrick understood nature better than they, and nature's Creator like they did not. He explained the Trinity through the use of a threeleaf clover. He cast demons out, and snakes were driven into the sea....

I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God unto salvation. There is a sound of a mighty rushing wind across the land that does not resemble bulldozers. Take a walk back behind the trees, through the woods while they are still there, and pray and ask Jesus and the Holy Spirit in. The trees will help you to hear the wind, and watch as sap flows, cells divide, the buds break , and the old leaves fall off...of you.