

This Week's Message:

"The Scars of Jesus"

On The Lighter Side

Two frogs we're in a lake in Minnesota shivering from the cold. They kept seeing geese land in the lake and then fly away and one frog asked the other frog what they were doing. His buddy told him they were flying to Florida where it's warm. The frog came up with a good idea. He swam under the water latched on to one of the geese's legs with his mouth and hitched a ride. Flying over Georgia a farmer looked up and said to his wife, "That's a smart idea! I wonder who thought of it." The frog heard it and yelled down, I did! And down he came.

Proverbs 16 says, "Pride goes before a great fall." The frog found that out. Sometimes God causes us to fall. When the good King Uzziah "grew strong he grew proud." and God struck him with leprosy. (2 Ch. 26).

Times like that are few and far between. Usually, God lets us make a fool out of ourselves. A guy had a neighbor, and no matter what he did, his neighbor did it better. The neighbor noticed he had a new hearing aid, and asked him what it cost. The man said \$1200 and the neighbor said, I bought the best hearing aid money can buy and only paid \$800. The man said, what kind is it, and the neighbor looked at his watch and said "4:30".

First Peter 5 says, "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God."

If we don't do it He will.

WHAT IS SALVATION?

"Enoch walked with God after Methuselah was born," [Gen. 5:21]

GOD'S WONDERFUL SALVATION

This verse pictures the first person in the Bible who made a decision to walk with God through life, or as the NT would say, become a follower of Jesus, a Christian. The NT word for this is "saved".

When God came to earth in Jesus and the angels announced Him to shepherds, they said our "Savior" had been born. (Lk. 3) The word "save" means to rescue or deliver. We speak of a fireman rescuing someone from a burning building.

In salvation God wants to forgive us and rescue us from the *penalty* of sin. He wants to change us and rescue us from the controlling *power* of sin. Sins intrude but they do not rule.

We become the kind of person who wants to and tries to do what is right and reaches out to help others. And when we fail, we ask the Lord to forgive us and help us never commit that sin again.

And when this life is over Jesus himself will welcome us into heaven (Jn. 14:3) where we are rescued from the very *presence* of sin. Revelation 21 says "nothing filthy" will enter there.

My mother and I could never get along. We both had depression and explosive tempers and the words we said and the things we did left scars on each other. After God changed me, He gave me the privilege of leading my mother to faith in Jesus and I cannot wait to see her in heaven.

In heaven she and I will be best friends forever, loving each other with the kind of love God has for us. It was sin that caused