

## My Rattlesnake Article



You read the above title correctly. In February of 2016, Regena and I took a trip to Arizona in order to visit her brother, Mark, and see the Grand Canyon. It was a mild February with temperatures above normal. After a few days I recall hearing public services announcements warning people of the rattlesnakes being out early. I expected to hear of three to 400 people being bitten and dying daily.

My good friend and brother in Christ, Terry Sanders, would have probably headed home right then but Regena refused to get in the car, so we stayed. A number of places had signs of a rattlesnake with warning in both English and Spanish, saying in effect "I am here to kill you, if you see me run." What really got my interest was one place we went with literature on those mean snakes. As it turns out Arizona is like the heaven of rattlesnakes. Not only do old people like living there, so do snakes. There are at least thirteen different types of rattlesnakes in the desert state. I did not realize there would be than many different types and they could all be found in Mark's (Regena's brother) neighborhood.

In reading of the different types, they live in different places and react differently to people. Some are very aggressive and will attach quickly. The advice to us folks is to not get near them but if you do, get away quickly. Another rattlesnake is not so aggressive as they want to be left alone. Therefore, leave slowly as they will react to sudden moves. As

I was reading of these 13 different types of rattlesnakes I realize, each one is a little different, requiring different responses, but still poisonous.

This got me to thinking about the devil and sin. The devil is sometimes like a snake as he lurks around waiting for you to get near enough that he can bite you (ensnare you). Beware of enticing sins that appeals to your desires as spoken of in James 1. Then Satan is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, 1 Peter 5.8. In that case you might be minding your own business while he sneaks up on you. We must be aware of the hidden dangers. Those sins like pride or youthful lust that makes us think we can withstand the devil while the Bible says "run", 2 Timothy 2.22. Then there might be times satan appears as an angel of light but he is leading us astray. False teachers want you to believe the lie. In which case we must examine the scriptures, Acts 17.11.

Just know that rattlesnakes and satan have a lot in common, they can be deadly, they prey on the unsuspecting, they can be overcome.

-- Dennis Tucker