

President's Piece for Peace

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As some of you may know I have had a battle with moles in my backyard for the past five years. I set traps and caught a few. I called a pest control expert who trapped half of a dozen over the last two years, but when it was all said and done he did more damage to my lawn than the moles. This year, I received some pest control advice from a pastor friend of mine. He directed me to a product that you spread on your lawn and water in. It is 90% castor oil and, when soaked in the soil, the burrowing animals are repulsed by the smell of the chemical. I purchased the product and applied it to my backyard. To my great surprise and pleasure, there have been no moles this year (so far anyway). I guess there is something they find more offensive than they can stand when they desire to search for food, and destroy a fine lay of grass.

Now that you all have an update on the frustrations of lawn maintenance, you may be wondering what that has to do with you and the season of summer. While I do not consider the moles to be satanic (although I may have spoken of them that way in disgust), I do find an analogy to the undesirable being repelled. I speak of our arch enemy, the Devil, who haunts us in season and out of season with the aim to not only disrupt, but also to ruin our life in Christ. It is his goal to cast doubt upon certainty, direct us to self-righteousness in the midst of accomplishments, and give way to the pleasures of the flesh in times of weakness. He uses the world to justify our Old Adam antics thereby fostering impenitence, which damages faith. This is the royal pest, the chief of liars, the prince of darkness, the vermin that borrows into our hearts and minds, with the intention of destroying the garden of holiness that the Lord of Mercy has draped upon us.

Were we able to eliminate Satan with a weapon so that he no longer exists that would be one thing. But the fact is we cannot kill him so that he is unable to move or tempt. We must engage a repellent. The repellent is but only one, the deterrent is located in one place, the power is given and it is real and it works. The repellent is the Word of God, Jesus Himself. In the book of Zechariah (3:2) it is recorded: "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you!" Both pre-incarnate and incarnate Jesus has the power to rebuke Satan, and Satan must flee.

Jesus still speaks with authority and power today in and through His Word. The summer time is a wonderful season to saturate yourself with the Word of God. Take the slower days during this time and read Holy Writ. Douse yourself in the grace of God and bath in His marvelous eternal Truth. The Sword of the Spirit works in this Word to strengthen your resolve, swell faith in Jesus, and act to solidify your confidence in what is spiritual, so that the temptations cast upon you can be repelled.

Matthew (16:23) records for us the narrative when Jesus rebukes Peter for his theology of glory, by commanding that "Satan, get behind me." Jesus still speaks, He still commands, and He still exercises His power for our sake. The crushing of Satan's head when Jesus was sacrificed for the guilt of the world cannot be undone. The resurrection proved Jesus' authority over sin, death and the Devil. All of His merit and righteousness is bestowed upon us in and through His Word. It is a brook well worth drinking from with the intent of overflowing.

God bless you, my brothers and sisters in the service of the Lord. It is His Church, where His Word and His promises are preached, that repel Satan from us. Drink it in, eat it as a feast so you may rejoice in the strength it provides. May your summer be blessed with a Devil repellent so strong that he finds it repulsive and must flee from you.

President Saunders