

**October 7, 2014**

Brenda and I watched a David Suzuki "Nature of Things" TV show on the topic of Parasites. We were amazed by the brilliance of these creatures as they first invaded then controlled their hosts.

These parasites feed on and reproduce in their hosts, and while most have no brains, some can still migrate through four different subjects in order to reproduce their species. By invading the brain of the host, these parasites are capable of manipulating and controlling behaviour for their own benefit even though they have no brains of their own.

So, how can something with no brain or obvious source of intelligence carry out such amazing feats to obtain control? What or who is the source? I thought of Paul's illustration regarding the parasite of the sin nature; "my own behaviour baffles me. For I find myself not doing what I really want to do but doing what I really loathe. Yet surely if I do these things that I really don't want to do it cannot be said I am doing them at all - it must be sin that has made its home in my nature. I often find that I have the will to do good but not the power"; just as a parasite cannot exist without a host, so sin cannot reproduce its nature without a human being; "Everything reproducing after its own kind".

Satan takes advantage of this parasite of sin and will claim us for his kingdom if we let him. He and his demons become the parasites that can either control and possess our lives, or oppress us, but our enemy's objective is always to control us. The ultimate battleground is the mind; if he can control our thoughts, he can steer the vessel.

As the Apostle Paul states "Who will free me from my slavery to this deadly lower nature? Thank God it has been done by Jesus Christ. He has set me free". Without going into all the details of this wonderful plan of deliverance He provides a PARACLETE to take up residence in us.

PARACLETE is a transliteration of a Greek word meaning the Holy Spirit. When we turn our lives over accepting Jesus as Saviour and Lord this blessed Paraclete makes His home in our spirit; and as Paul states "Don't let the world around you [or the parasite of sin] squeeze you into its mould but let God remake you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed"; or as another translation puts it "but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

The salvation process is the same as the parasite but the methods and results are totally different. The parasite comes in uninvited and steals control of your mind for its own ends, but the Paraclete comes only by invitation, responding only to our willingness to cooperate and submit our will to His. Our behaviour is no longer controlled by the parasite of sin, but led by the powerful Holy Spirit of God... if we let Him.

The ultimate goal of the Paraclete is to mould the character and behaviour of Jesus Christ in us; only then can we become one with each other and with God. "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." (John 17:21)NKJV

COME HOLY SPIRIT COME, COME HOLY SPIRIT COME, COME HOLY SPIRIT COME...

Shalom.

*Ron Harris*

