
"What We Have... Heard We Proclaim To You..."
1 John 1:3
Welcome to the Northside Church of Christ

## Spider Webs

 Kent HeatonThe spider's ability to weave a web is one of the marvels of the animal kingdom. A small creature creates a masterpiece of intricate patterns suited for its own survival. In the Old Testament the writer ascribes greatness to four small creatures. "There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise: the ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in the summer; the rock badgers are a feeble folk, yet they make their homes in the crags; the locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks; the spider skillfully grasps with its hands, and it is in kings' palaces" (Proverbs 30:24-28).

Sometimes the spider skillfully weaves its web on biking trails. Each morning I enjoy a long bike ride on a nature trail near my home. Lined with trees on one side and a large avenue of tall grass, bushes and small trees on the other, it becomes a haven of squirrels, rabbits, fox, a snake or two and lots of spider webs. Those who wish to ride this trail must wait until daylight to make certain the webs that sometimes fall across the trail do not cause more harm than necessary. Riding east the many strands of webs fall gently down to the pavement or a piece of grass or small tree reflected by the morning sun. What is marvelous about this order of things is to consider the size of the spider and the height of its strands.

No matter the size of a spider (and most of the spiders are small compared to others) one thing is very clear: the long strands of web which may reach a length of 10 or 12 feet were not made from a spider jumping from the ground to the tree limb but the spider beginning from the highest point and spinning the web downward. Spiders may 'jump' but their "vert" is not much. A spider will make his web from the top and dangle down to something below thereby creating the avenue necessary to return to the top and begin creation of its
web. But this would not be possible if it tried to start from the ground. His life begins at the top!

There is a lesson for man taught from a spider's web: man can't jump either. "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). No matter how hard man tries he can never succeed in building his life from the ground up. The only way man will find happiness and peace is when he begins "on high." The existence of man is dependent upon the One who reigns above and that is Jehovah God. Beginning without God will end in defeat.

The spider knows it must begin on high but man tries to build the web of his life with his own wisdom. His web is grounded and without function. "But I am poor and sorrowful; let Your salvation, O God, set me up on high" (Psalms 69:29). God sent His Son from on high to lift man from sin. Through Jesus Christ we begin on high and live our lives in service to the will of God on high. Our lives are not built upon this world but the world to come. "We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Where does wisdom come from? It must come from "above" (James 1:17; 13-18). What is the focus of your life? "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1-2). Seek things above; set your mind above. Learn the lesson of the spider - start from above where God is!

## Matthew 7:24-27

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."

## Sunday Morning Lesson

## Topic:

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