

Little Green Tree Frog

Many years ago, when McIver State Park had its campground open on a year around basis, it fell upon me in the late fall or early winter to do what I used to call “Potty Patrol and Salad Run”. This was a rather jaundiced way of phrasing the job of hauling garbage and cleaning the rest rooms. These operations were usually carried out two to three times daily during the heavy use period of late spring, summer and early fall. Generally, during these seasons, we only cleaned the picnic areas since the campground had its own crew to handle these duties. However, this being the off season, and park usage was tapering off. Besides, after Labor Day the summer help went back to school, or got laid off for their end of the season. So the duties I had inherited, as it were, were but a very small part of the winter season, and the “experiment” of year around campground was intended to be a measuring tool of profitability for further reference....It failed, but, I digress.

Due to the time of year, the park campground was sparsely attended. None the less, sanitation of the restroom facilities and showers was of paramount importance. Such procedure began with a quick check to see what needed to be done. I was pleasantly surprised to find the men’s side was in perfect condition. I then went over to the women’s side to check it. The first thing I saw was a blob of something right in the middle of the ceramic tiled wall straight ahead. Anticipating the worst, I went ahead towards the blob with my chemically disinfected toilet brush dripping into the bucket I carried with it. What followed took me aback, as I had not expected this at all.

The blob turned out to be a little green tree frog which had come in from the cold, wet outside environs only to discover that with the warmth of the rest room, came an environment which was dry. So, in an apparent attempt to escape the dryness the little green tree frog traversed the entire floor of the women’s rest room and began an ascent of the opposite wall of the facility. Having climbed to about three feet off the floor, the little green tree frog was resting on the wall, readying itself to continue the ascent of the wall.

Now, when I was eight years old, I was a pretty good “frogger”. I was quite surprised to discover how lithe and quick little green tree frogs had become in my forty year “sabbatical” from serious tree frog pursuit. I found myself at age forty eight or so, crashing and banging parts of my body against the facilities as I traveled on my hands and knees under and around toilet stall partitions I hot pursuit of a frightened little green tree frog who only knew that he was lost, scared, and being chased by a “big bad nasty”. I was able to apprehend the small creature, largely because it was out of its element inside the dry building. I then carried it outside and laid it on a bed of wet moss on the forest floor outside the restroom.

When I stop to think about it, humanity is a lot like the little green tree frog inside the warm and dry restroom building....That is to say we are out of our element. The little green tree frog reacted in fear by fleeing from an unknown pursuer who only intended to do good by placing the little green tree frog back into the element it was most suited for, and out of which it had wittingly strayed. Mankind reacts by transgressing the laws of God who created us by acting in a fleshly lead life. This may give monetary and transient pleasure, but in the end, it will lead to spiritual death. Mankind, like the little green tree frog, is “scared to death” because we are in an environment with which we are unfamiliar and totally ignorant of the rules of conduct. While the little green tree frog merely runs away to escape because of its fear of the unknown, mankind reacts by rebellion, being aware of a higher power as evidenced by cave paintings and fabricated idol found in temples.

The Apostle Paul spoke to the Athenians and commented on what was written on an altar found in the city which had been dedicated “to an unknown god”. Testifying to the Athenians about the one true God Who made the heavens and the earth, Paul tried to ease the fears of the Athenians who were acting in ignorance to make sure they were giving just worship to a god they did not know .

Christianity is a faith which is based upon God’s love for us, which is manifested as a sacrificial offering of Himself for the sins of us all. What we would describe as “common sense” tells us to fear God because we are expecting to receive spiritual death as a justified payment for our state of sin. God, however, in love, pardons our sins rather than condemning us to the spiritual death we so richly deserve. God’s Grace forgives us.

Therefore we have no cause to fear, since we can not be separated from the Devine Love God expresses for us.

When it was released from my cupped hands, the little green tree frog merely jumped onto a bed of wet moss out in the forested area in hot pursuit of a big, fat lawn moth it had spied as breakfast. It was now in the element God planned for it. Similarly, we need to pursue the new life we have in Christ granted us by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Then, with the Holy Spirit indwelling us, we can be free to be in the element God had planned for us as well.

Romans 1: 18-32

Romans 6: 23a

Acts 17: 22-28

John 3:16

John 3: 17

Romans 8: 31-39