

Grandpa, Grandma and the Baby Cardinal

Three baby cardinal birds lived in a little nest their parents had built in the pine tree beside Grandpa and Grandma's enclosed back porch. They looked safe and warm as they snuggled together. Only when food was brought was the peace and quiet of their little home disturbed. What a racket was heard then as each one tried to outdo the other telling Dad or Mom Cardinal how hungry it was. Grandma and Grandpa loved to watch the happy little home and all its busy activity.

But one day a very stormy wind began to blow. The terrible wind and storm blew fiercely all night long. Early the next morning, Grandma anxiously looked out of the porch window to see if the little nest had weathered the storm. It was gone from the tree! She hurried outside and carefully searched near the pine tree but was only able to find a few scattered pieces of the nest on the ground. As she searched, Grandma spied one little baby cardinal on the ground that seemed more dead than alive. She carefully picked it up and carried it in the house. Finding a sturdy cardboard box she quickly made it warm and comfortable for the baby bird. During this time Grandpa had found an old bird cage stored in the garage which was soon cleaned and ready for a new occupant. Grandma's tender care worked wonders with the baby Cardinal and before long it was squawking and chirping at Grandpa and Grandma telling them it was hungry and they needed to bring more food.

Now Grandma had another idea. She placed the bird cage near the porch screen window next to the pine tree. The baby seemed quite content in its surroundings, chirping loudly and growing rapidly.

Grandpa and Grandma were pleasantly surprised one day when father cardinal flew near the porch window and discovered his missing baby living in the cage! He flew to the window trying ever so hard to get in to his baby. But the screen stopped him though the two birds continually chirped at each other. Grandpa decided to try an experiment. He took the cage outside and tied it very carefully and securely in the tree near where the nest had been. He tied the door open and it wasn't long before father cardinal again began his routine of bringing food to his baby cardinal right in the cage!

In a few more days the little bird was large enough to try flying on its own. Soon it had permanently left the cage to enjoy its freedom. Grandpa and Grandma thought they heard it singing as it flew away. Maybe the young cardinal was singing 'thank you'. Grandpa and Grandma never again saw the cardinal or its daddy, but they were very happy that it had lived and was now enjoying its freedom.

This story reminds us of a verse in the Bible: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12). The pine tree must have seemed like a very safe place to build a nest for the cardinal family. But they had not planned on that terrible storm! God has told us in the Bible that someday He must send a terrible storm of judgment on this world because it is full of sin and because it is guilty of crucifying His beloved Son, Jesus our Lord. All in danger of God's judgment because we all are born into this world as sinners. The Bible says: "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23). No sin of any kind can ever enter heaven. If we want to be protected from the coming storm of judgment and live in that happy place after leaving this world, we must have our all our sins forgiven by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. The Bible tells us; "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:17, 18).

Sadly, many people do not believe the Bible and do not believe that God's judgment against sin and sinners is coming. They are not safe. Every Word in the Bible is true. God warns all mankind; "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" (Hebrews 9:27).

But our loving God has made a wonderful way of escape from the coming judgment. That way is through the precious blood His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, shed at Calvary when the soldier pierced His side with a spear (John 19:34). The Lord Jesus told us that; "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." (John 14:6). His death and blood shed from His pierced side at the cross fully and forever pays for all the sins of every single person who accepts Him as their personal Saviour. Won't you accept Him as your personal Saviour right now?

"...but now once in the end of the world hath he [Jesus] appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (Hebrews 9:26). The love and care that Grandpa and Grandma gave the little cardinal is very small in comparison to the love that God has for us. He sent His only Son all the way from heaven to this world for the purpose of dying as a sacrifice for us on Calvary's cross. Everyone who receives the Lord Jesus Christ by faith is forever safe from God's coming storm of judgment. The Lord Jesus has promised to take all believers safely home to His Father's house in heaven and also to care for each believer all the way home. Here is His promise: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5) and in John 14:2,3 we read the words of the Lord Jesus again; "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also".

The Bible also tells us that "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son Cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). This was written to believers. You can become a believer too, right now. Talk to Him in prayer from your heart. Tell Him that you are a sinner, that you believe His blood will wash away all your sins forever. He will accept you at once, He will immediately save you forever and make you one of His own dear sheep. This is what it means to be saved. Once you are saved by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ you can never be lost again! "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13). "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish" (John 10:28).

L.D.N., Revised August, 2008