

REFLECTIONS

I've been thinking about family pets lately and came across this old narrative:

If you can start the day without caffeine, If you can get going without pep pills, If you can resist complaining and boring people with all your troubles, If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it, If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time, If you can overlook it when something goes wrong through no fault of yours and those you love take it out on you, if you can take criticism and blame without resentment, If you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct him, If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend, If you can face the world without lies and deceit, If you can conquer tension without medical help, If you can relax without liquor, If you can sleep without the aid of drugs, If you can say honestly that deep in your heart you have no prejudice against creed, color, religion or politics, Then, my friends, you are almost as good as your dog.

It is simply amazing how attached we can become to our pets, whether dogs or cats or even little birds. We can simultaneously delight in their antics and clean up their messes. We love them in our laps or at our feet. We smile when they are happy and cry when they are in pain. Our grief is all too sharp when we lose one. I called my first dog Nickel because his mother's name was Penny. Nicky listened to my troubles, chased mice and other critters and ran beside me when I rode my bike. I do not know if our animals go to heaven when they die. I do know that the Bible indicates that heaven is filled with all manner of animals and creatures beyond our imaginations. If we can love our creatures so deeply, how much greater is God's love towards us today?

The Psalmist wrote a song we sometimes call "Creature Praise." In Psalm 148 all of God's creation and all of His creatures, including people, are encouraged to praise the Lord. *Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.* (v. 13)

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Praise the Lord. And let's experience the love and power of God together.

Bro. Darryl

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning
Continental Breakfast 9:20 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study & Conversation 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday Evening
The People's Pantry 5:00 p.m.
The Clothes Closet Ministry
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

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**The righteous man
leads a blameless life;
blessed are his children
after him.**

Proverbs 20:7



