

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#03-0984

The Battle of the Mole

November 14, 2009

Over the last month or so I have been fighting a losing battle with a mole or, perhaps, a family of moles that decided our yard is a good place for them to set up shop, so to speak. If you know anything about moles, they search for grubs by digging trenches just under the grass. As they dig their trenches, they periodically stop and push up a mound of dirt. The result is that they ruin the appearance of a yard with these pushed-up piles of grass that die and mounds of dirt here and there.

So, over a period of a month, I have been battling this mole(s) with every product available in the stores, from spraying stuff on the yard that gives off an odor that is not very pleasant to placing battery-operated noise makers in strategic areas. None of this has seemed to work except, perhaps, to cause the critter to move to another part of our yard. I was hoping it would just leave, but when it did not, I decided it was time to try products for killing moles. These didn't work either. The mole was too smart to eat the expensive chemicals shaped like grubs; I guess it had more down-to-earth tastes. It was also too smart to return to one of its trenches that now had a guillotine waiting for it. Tested warriors know the danger of going into a trench that has been altered in some way. By the way, I realize, a little too late, that I need to attack the problem by getting rid of the grubs. This is my spring project.

Well, every day I would walk our yard to see what damage our squatter had done the night before. I mistakenly thought that moles only worked at night, until one day, around 10 am, I looked out the window to our backyard and saw the grass being pushed up into mounds. So, I ran to the garage, picked up a long screwdriver, and ran to the backyard. I figured I could attack this thing and end this assault on our yard once and for all. No such thing happened. The mole was much faster than I was. It must have been quite a sight of me thrashing the ground with a screwdriver and then jumping up and down on the ground like a mad man. Not a good example of be slow to anger!

Not to be undaunted, I kept watching for the mole to appear around 10 am. As if on cue, one day, at 10 am, I looked out the window of the front of the house, and there it was having a good time of making trenches in our yard. I had already formulated a new plan in mind if I were given another chance; so once again, I ran to the garage, but this time I retrieved a long-handled shovel and ran into the yard. I stood there for a moment and, much to my surprise, it was digging about a foot from me. Rather than plan my move carefully based on the movement of the mole, I acted in haste. I took the shovel, jumped in the air with my feet on the blade and drove it into the trench. It was aerobatics at its best as I twisted in the air and pushed my weight down on the shovel. Guess what happened? I wrenched my back! Anyone who knows anything about backs knows that twisting can cause very serious injury, especially for backs that already have some weakness. Needless to say, I was in a lot of pain; the worst I have ever experienced. I could hardly walk and could not stand up straight. The mole, a dirty fighter (pun intended), won, and I lost. My sister-in-law was the prophet during this whole episode because she kept telling me that it was the mole's territory, and it would win in the end, which it did.

Strangely, with me wounded, the mole must have savored its victory and moved on to conquer other frontiers; at least we think it has, based on not seeing any signs of its handiwork for a few days. With prayer, my back is coming back to normal much faster than expected, considering the initial pain. Thank God!

Now, as I was going through this battle of man verses beast, I relayed my daily encounters to my good friend John who knows something of living through the trials of life. One day he suggested that I inquire if there were any spiritual significance to the experience.

You don't think that I am going to embarrass myself with a story of a mole without making a spiritual point, do you?

As I considered the dirty affair, I came to realize that there is a very important lesson in this story for Christians in the United States, especially those concerned over the direction in which our country seems to be headed. I sense that there are growing numbers of Christians today who are joining the conservatives of our country that have a “gut” feeling that something is happening to our country that is not for the good. They sense that just under the surface, there is something looming that is going to burst out in the open and bring ruin to the country.

Of course, much of this unease or gut-feel is the result of what is happening in the sphere of politics and government. Surely, there are things happening that should cause concern for all of us, the least of which are huge deficits that are bankrupting our country and making us beholden to the world that has become our creditor and we its debtor. I am reminded of the words of Habakkuk: **“Will not your creditors rise up suddenly, and those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them** (Habakkuk 2:7 NASB).

As a nation, we are in very serious danger, and I don’t think any of us should minimize it. However, the question is how are we to respond to what we sense is happening, much of which is unrighteous, and to what could be coming our way soon in the way of further erosion of our standard of living? Are we to fight it, that is, rise up in some fashion against our politicians and governmental leaders? Some Christians are responding in this fashion by becoming politically active as they are encouraged to do by the conservative media. I call these the God, country, and guns Christians. See issues #02-08142 through #02-08145, November 2008, *God, Country, Guns*. Other Christian groups are determined to see Christians rise up and take the nations for Christ, that is, bring the kingdom of God to the nations apart from Christ coming a second time. So, they preach that we have all the power we need to do the job; the problem is that we are not exercising it.

I have stated this elsewhere, but what is missing in much of the Christian-bravado of our day is humility and repentance, and a genuine inquiring or crying out to God to know why we, along with the rest of the world, are in the predicament we now face. See issues #03-09154, August 24, 2009, *Whosoever Humbles Himself Shall Be Exalted*.

But let me ask a question: What if all that is going on in our country and the world today is the result of the judgment of God? What if God is behind it all? If He is, then are we to be like Paul who kicked against the goad? In other words, we are fighting against God’s judgment, which means we are fighting God. Who do you think will win? Do we think that every leader of the nations of the world is in place by happenstance, when God is clear that He alone raises up and takes down nations (Jeremiah 18:7-10) and places leaders in positions of authority (Daniel 4:17; 5:21; Romans 13:1; Colossians 1:16)?

I believe it is my solemn duty to warn the church. It is time to wake up, humble ourselves, repent, and seek the Lord as we have never done before. We need to cast off the tradition of men, throw down the physical sword of all kinds, and take up the sword of the word of God and of the Spirit.

Well, what does all this have to do with the battle of the mole? I never saw the mole, but I could see evidence of its activity, and I didn’t like it. For all I know, it was not even a mole but a vole or some other creature. Nevertheless, I reacted to my gut and my outrage over this intrusion that said there was a mole down there that had to be eliminated. I reacted with my physical weapons in hand and ended up hurt without really eliminating the threat.

As Christians, are we doing the same thing by reacting to our gut over what we sense lurching below the surface and to the secular conservative media that is calling us to arms? Are we fighting without knowing our enemy face-to-face? What if our enemy is not an enemy after all but our Friend? What if it is God trying to get our attention? What if it is His judgment on us because we have turned to so many other things but not the one thing, which is Jesus Christ? Don’t you think it is time to seek our heavenly Father for answers rather than going off half-cocked as I did with the mole? I have a pained back to prove the consequences of such reactive outrage. If the church fights against the Lord, it too will lose and end up wounded, which may be a good thing. Consider Jacob-Israel! Do not take me wrong; there is a call to fight the spiritual battle, and we are in that day; but let us make sure we are on solid footing with the Lord before we do. The Lord is not a dirt fighter; He is the Lord of Righteousness, and His righteousness wins every time. **Let us wake up, humble ourselves, repent, and seek the Lord!**