

## Taz Christianity

As a kid Saturday morning was the day of the week you looked forward to for many reasons. With no school, it was a day that held so much promise. Often times Dad and Mom were still in bed when I would make for the T.V. to watch cartoons. It was the likes of the Road Runner, Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, and Huckleberry Finn that made the idea of a sleep-in a foreign concept. One of my favorite cartoon characters was the Tasmanian Devil. "Taz" was a most interesting character. He would start with what sounded like a racing engine and come at you with blinding speed in the form of a cyclone, destroying everything in his path. When he would finally stop, he appeared to be the meanest and ugliest foe, eating everything he grabbed.

As I got a little older, I came to realize that there really was such a thing as a Tasmanian Devil, and that they lived down south of Australia in Tasmania. Initially I had this thought that Tasmania must be a sad place to live with all those ugly animals moving around the country in the form of a cyclone consuming everything in their path. It was when I saw one on television that I came to realize that the real Tasmanian Devil looks and moves nothing at all like Taz!

These little animals look like a cross between a dog, a pig and a rat, and are ugly little marsupials that are notorious for their bad temper. But one of their most unique characteristics is their powerful jaws and razor sharp teeth. I shall never forget the first time I saw one on TV. A zoo keeper was feeding a big steak to a Tasmanian Devil. When the little fellow clamped down on that raw steak, his jaw locked onto it before the attendant could let go. While continuing to hold on to the steak he lifted the steak and the animal completely off the ground. To demonstrate what the keeper called a "tenacious grip" he proceeded to sling the steak back and forth, and the animal still would not let go.

The Christian life is in part demonstrated by the "tenacious grip" of a Tasmanian Devil. The apostle Paul spoke of the gospel which was preached to us, which we received and in which we stand and are saved. He said, ". . .if you **hold fast** that word that I preached to you-unless you believed in vain," 1 Corinthians 15:1,2. Later he admonished the Christians at Thessalonica to ". . .**hold fast** what is good," 1 Thessalonians 5:21. Later he told the same group to ". . . **stand fast and hold** the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle," 2 Thessalonians 2:15. This gives us that idea that our faith is something that must be held onto with such a determined grip, that we would never let go.

There are things in the Christian life that demand a "tenacious grip," in order to survive the world. While Satan aims his destructive darts at us, we must

determine that God's word is true, that He will protect us and deliver us from every evil, Hebrews 13:5. It keeps the Christian constant in his commitment. The strong Christian refuses to slip in and out of his Christian walk depending on the heat of the battle against sin.

Here is something to sink your teeth into! Eternal life! Young Timothy was encouraged to, "Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold** on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses," 1 Timothy 6:12. A half-hearted attempt will not do. James said, "My brethren, do not **hold** the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality," James 2:1. The Hebrew writer said, "For we have become partakers of Christ if we **hold** the beginning of our confidence **steadfast** to the end," Hebrews 4:14.

Looking back it always seemed amazing how throughout an entire cartoon Taz could destroy everything in his path, and yet come out a winner in the end. But then it hit me; when we look back over the course of our lives and see the messes we have made along the way, and then consider the rescue Christ has provided, time and time again, we realize that there is hope in the end if we will just hold on!

-Scott