

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35

A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.
— Charles H. Spurgeon

Barnacles, boats and believers. This is the subject for today's meditation. Let's start with *barnacles* and *boats*.

Barnacles are the scourge of the sea for most sailors, yacht or boat owners. Barnacles are small crustaceans that “secrete a glue-like substance which hardens like cement when they stick to a boat's hull or any other surface,” according to one source. They attach themselves to the bottoms of boats, and anything else that happens to be in water, such as buoys, docks, and even other sea creatures like turtles and whales.

They are a huge concern, because they can increase a boat's fuel consumption due to the drag effect. They also cause propellers to become sluggish. They damage the surface of a hull, ruin its appearance and clog the water intake valves.

Boat owners must take care to remove barnacles or prevent them from sticking to the prop and hull.

But how? By using antifouling agents. These are usually some form of silicon-based paint that keeps the hull clean and slick, making it hard for a barnacle to attach itself and begin its work of destruction.

Now let's talk about *believers*. Antifouling agents! Hmmm. Seems like it is so easy in our lives as believers to let bad stuff attach itself to our inner selves, souls or spirits. We live in such an ungodly world that barnacles are bound to float up and find a rough spot on our “hull,” as it were, and take a spot. Soon there are more.

The solution is an antifouling agent. And what better protection, what better antifouling agent is there but the holy word of God, the Bible. Many passages in Scripture counsel us to study and take to heart the word of God. Perhaps the best is the advice the Lord gave Joshua as they were about to confront the enemy. “This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, ... For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful” (Joshua 1:8).

The Bible: the best answer to spiritual barnacles ever!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, help me to keep up the maintenance on my spiritual “hull” by applying the antifouling treatment of your word. Amen.

Blessings,
Linda & Pastor Ben White

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Luke 14-17

Monday: 1 Samuel 4-7

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 8-10

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 11-13

Thursday: 1 Samuel 14-16

Friday: 1 Samuel 17-20

Saturday: Psalms 43-45

INCOMPLETE COUNTRIES

Directions: The numbered column (1,2,3, etc.) contains a list of countries, each with the **first two and last two letters** missing. Supply the missing letters and write the country in the blank provided. Match the **country** with its scrambled **capital** found in the column to the right. Hint: **Unscramble the capitals first, and then try to find** the country with the missing letters. The first one is done for you.

COUNTRY	CAPITAL		CAPITALS
GrEEce	Athens	1. EE	TATAOW
_____	_____	2. LGI	SMAABAILD
_____	_____	3. AZ	RENB
_____	_____	4. NA	RIOAC
_____	_____	5. NMA	TREMSAMDA
_____	_____	6. Y	NESHTA
_____	_____	7. STRAL	SCARACA
_____	_____	8. RA	XECIMO IYCT
_____	_____	9. XI	ELT VIAV
_____	_____	10. THERLAN	GNEHANEOPC
_____	_____	11. RW	SLOO
_____	_____	12. KIST	SELSSBRU
_____	_____	13. RTUG	RREBAANC
_____	_____	14. ITZERLA	IALSIRAB
_____	_____	15. NEZUE	BOSINL

Answers:
 2. Belgium (Brussels); 3. Brazil (Brasilia); 4. Canada (Ottawa); 5. Denmark (Copenhagen); 6. Egypt (Cairo); 7. Australia (Canberra); 8. Israel (Tel Aviv); 9. Mexico (Mexico City); 10. Netherlands (Amsterdam); 11. Norway (Oslo); 12. Pakistan (Islamabad); 13. Portugal (Lisbon); 14. Switzerland (Bern); 15. Venezuela (Caracas).

Verse to Remember: "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart'" (1 Samuel 16:7).