

I Wish ...

Men hated sin as much as they hate the black bugs which plague us in June and September! What a nuisance they are. They make it almost impossible to see through our windshields; they clog up our radiators, stick like glue to our cars; they invade our house and we must constantly sweep or vacuum and still we are not rid of them. They make us first so dirty and we want to get rid of them as quickly as possible. Do you know anyone who loves "lovebugs"?

How blessed man would be if he hated sin as much as we hate "lovebugs"! The damage man experiences from the bugs are minimal compared to the damage we suffer from sin. Every tear of sorrow, every pain we experience either emotional or physical, every death that snatches a loved one from us is the result of sin. But even these things are slight compared with the eternal consequences we may taste because of it. Jesus warned, *"And be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell"* (Matt. 10:28). Hell is not a pleasant place. It is a place where the smoke of torment ascendeth upward day and night (Rev. 14:11). It is a place of outer darkness; a place where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. It is a bitter place of anguish where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. No one, in their right mind, would want to go to that place.

If man hated sin as much as we hate the black bugs, no one would go to hell. Unfortunately, unlike "black bugs," there are some pleasurable, delightful things about sin. Eve saw that the forbidden fruit was "lovely to look at;" "good for food" and "to be desired to make one wise." So, she ate and you know the rest of the story. Satan hid from her both the temporal and eternal consequences of her transgression just as he hides it from us. *"The god of this world hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving ..."* (2 Cor. 4:4).

If sin made us feel dirty as these black bugs do, there would be multiplied thousands seeking cleansing in the blood of the Lamb. And, we would continue to abide in Christ knowing that *"If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus cleanseth us from all sins"* (1 Jn. 1:7). I wish everyone hated sin as much as they hate black bugs!

Jim McDonald