

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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“SALVELINUS FONTINALIS”

JERRY DAILEY

Salvelinus Fontinalis is the scientific name for Brook Trout and literally means a Salmon at the head of the Fountain. A native Brook Trout is just that, native to the stream. Not raised in a hatchery and placed in the stream as the result of a stocking program, but in place by the hand of God. There are still some unspoiled cold-water streams free of pollution but they are a bit difficult to visit. They are usually in the mountains of the Appalachian, Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountain chain and require no little effort to reach them. The head waters of the streams are narrow, sometimes swift and have rather densely forested verges. Trees overhang the water and brush is almost always present. The native trout are rather small due to the confinement of their surroundings and are very weary of predators, human or otherwise.

The presence of dense foliage makes it difficult to cast a fly line.

Not impossible, but difficult. The continual tangling of the line and leader with the trees tends to test the patience of the most ardent of fisherman, but man has a solution! Not satisfied with or at least irritated by God's landscape they have gone to considerable expense and energy to craft their own. They remove the overhanging limbs and brush to make fly casting mostly free of obstruction. They bulldoze roads to make the streams more easily accessible and even introduce non-native fish into the stream for their angling pleasure.

All of this has a deleterious effect upon the water as well as the native fish. Removing the foliage allows more sunlight onto the water and consequently raising the water temperature making it less habitable for Brook Trout. The native fish now compete with the transplanted fish for food and in fact the newcomers feed upon the brook trout minnows. The changing of the contour of the land

causes erosion and contributes to sediment build-up in the streams. Where men have gone pollution is soon to follow. Beer cans and sewage come immediately to mind.

What is the point to all of this? Well, I suggest that we are not so much different from the Brook Trout. Not in a physiological sense but we share the same basic needs. We need nourishment, pure water and oxygen to support our existence. We also live, somewhat, in the fear of predators and have an innate desire to protect our young. I suppose that trout don't necessarily protect their young but they will defend their spawning redds vigorously.

Beyond the physical, men and women have spiritual needs. Man is unique among God's creation in that God breathed into his nostrils the Breath of Life and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7. Man is an eternal being and is going to spend eternity some-where.

*The Southeast
Church of Christ
meets at:*

35 Walnut Ct.

*Mogadore, OH
44260*

Phone:

330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study:

10:00 am

Worship:

10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:

7:30 pm”

We are free moral agents and are able to determine our own destiny.

We need to have access not only to pure physical water but, more importantly, to the Living Water that Jesus promised to the woman at the well in John chapter four. To gain access to it we have to go to the source. To the Head of the Fount.

The Bible is not a random collection of stories as many have supposed, but it is, in fact, the Word of God! The bible, is a seamless document composed of 66 books; compiled by about 40 men over a period of about fifteen hundred years.

The Holy Spirit, through these men has woven a seamless tapestry that begins at Creation. The record chronicles the first sunset, Gen. 1:14-19, and portends the last. II Peter 3:10. The fall of man is recorded and the introduction of sin into the human family. Beginning with Genesis 3:15 the Holy Spirit intersperses threads of silver into the fabric to herald the coming Messiah. Threads of gold announced the birth, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus! Acts thru the Revelation provide us with instructions and encouragements about how we should deport ourselves in this life. The woof and weft of this tapestry is sometimes as harsh as sackcloth and at other times as smooth as fine twinned linen. It can be either a blessing or a curse; depending on how we react toward it. The bible contains all that we need to know that pertains to life and godliness. II Peter 1:3.

I have heard several people make the observation that the Scripture is so simple that we

would need help to misunderstand it. Well, if that is true then there is plenty help available.

Just as some fishermen are not satisfied with God's landscape and have set out to create their own. Men have taken the same liberties with the Word of God and have wrested it to suit their own pleasure.

Creed's have been written to take exception to portions of Truth that are at cross purposes to their own preconceived notions. Conventions are held regularly to examine their particular tenants and to bring them into harmony with current societal whims.

Many have claimed that the outdated language of the bible is too difficult to understand. The solution, of course, is to eschew legitimate translations and cleave to transliterations and paraphrased editions that are not only useless and the opinions of the authors dominate the text.

There is an abundance of encyclopedias, dictionaries available, some of which, are reliable or least benign but others are written with a definite liberal point of view.

A host of commentaries are also available, some are useful but most have a premillennial agenda. Don't believe me? Just go to a book store and pick one up at random and take a look. Some commentaries; written by Brethren and other conservative men are helpful, but just remember that no matter if the author can read Greek, speak Latin and think in Hebrew; they are NOT inspired. The fact remains that the most reliable commentary is the bible itself. Someone has said that the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. I think I got

that right.

I cannot know the motivation of the writers of the volumes that I have in question but I can observe the result. When we face God in Judgment II Cor. 5:10, we will not be excused because we were led astray by John Calvin or a host of others of the Reformation Movement. We can't appeal to these luminaries or our modern day tele-evangelists. They will have their own problems. We will be judged by the words of Jesus. John 12:48.

As I look at the words of this article I suppose it should have been titled "Beware!" There was a serpent in Eden and serpents are in the world today and sad to say; once in a while one will bare its ugly fangs in the Church.

We need, desperately, to go to the Fountain of Living water unaltered by the precepts of men; know it, understand it and order our lives by it!

There you have it folks; the musings of an old man as I sit on a log at the edge of a trout stream resting the pool; hoping that the trout will forget about me and I can deceive them into biting on an artificial fly.

Somehow that makes me feel guilty.

Note: Jordon's series: "God's Purpose For You" that he began in last month's issue of the Southeast Sower, will continue in the July issue of the Sower.