THE SPECKLED BIRD

Jeremiah 12:9 KJV

[9] Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her.....

       It is a wonderful thing to be known as God’s heritage.  It is not so wonderful to be described as a speckled bird.  This is proven by what precedes the example of the speckled bird and what the speckled bird represents in our text.

       God’s heritage which is the speckled bird was first known as “the dearly beloved of his soul.”  So it is obvious that God loved Judah.  He cared for her and wanted what was best for her.  But she had turned her back on God and started living like the devil.  God despised the way she was living and said she was like a lion in the forest crying out against him.  The sin of Judah was like the roar of the lion who kept all other animals from coming near.  God wanted Judah to be his church and lead people to him but instead she was deep in sin and driving people away.  Therefore he despised her.

       God also likened his heritage to this speckled bird.  Matthew Henry thinks this bird was one with huge talons who was continually picking, pecking, pulling and tearing at her prey. The specks on her beautiful wings were splatters of blood that marked the sin she was living in.  She was marked with the blood of the innocent she had shed.  God’s heritage had become a place that was little more than a bloody mess resembling a place used for fighting roosters.

        It is a sad thing for the church to have such a reputation.  This is not right for the people of God who should be marked by faith, love and the peace of the Lord, to instead be identified by the people who are picking, pecking, pulling and tearing at someone’s good reputation.  How many people have been torn down by words that were either gossip or hear-say, rumors with no facts to support what was being broad-cast.

       I know what it is to pastor a church that had a reputation of fussing and fighting.  It is not easy to get people from the community to visit the church because folks still see the bloody splotches from the previous fighting.  We can tear down more good in a few words than can be built back in years.  Let us live in such a way that God would see us as The Dearly Beloved of His Soul and not as a Speckled Bird.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram