

CATERPILLAR



The caterpillar is not a very pretty insect. It is also a very destructive insect since it eats the plants we use for food and for our gardens.

The caterpillar crawls slowly along branches of trees and eats leaves and fruit. When it has eaten enough food, the caterpillar spins a cocoon around itself. After a short time, a butterfly comes out of the cocoon. The butterfly is very different from the caterpillar. The butterfly is beautiful, it can fly and it helps plants to spread their pollen.

What can we learn from God's creation of the caterpillar?

The caterpillar teaches us an important lesson from the Bible - are to put our sinful ways to death so that we can live the God pleasing way Jesus wants us to. In Romans 8:13 we learn, "If you live according to the sinful nature you will die; but if by the Spirit (the Holy Spirit) you put to death the misdeeds of the body (sin) you will live because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

The caterpillar teaches us to take off the sinful ways that we have and to put on the righteousness of Jesus who died to save us from our sins. Just as the caterpillar changes into the butterfly, we are to change from sin to God pleasing living. In 2nd Corinthians 5:17 we learn, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. All this is from God who reconciled (made peace with) us to himself through Christ." We are to be a new person because of our love for God. Ephesians 4:24 teaches us, "Put on the new self created to be like God in true righteousness and

holiness.” Just as the butterfly is beautiful and is a help to mankind, we are to become “new” people that reflect God’s love and goodness.

We are saved by our faith in Jesus as our Savior from our sins. Jesus died to earn our salvation and gives salvation to us as a free gift. It is as if Jesus wraps us in robes of pure goodness to cover up our sins. This is like the caterpillar changing into the beautiful butterfly. Because of what Jesus did for us, we can be sure that we will live in heaven with Him forever. In 1st Peter 1:1-5 we learn this lesson, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.” We are reborn into new people through our faith in Jesus and know for sure that eternal life will be ours.

The ugly caterpillar is like our sinful selves. The butterfly is like our God pleasing selves. Isn't it better to follow God than to follow sinful things?

