



God's Dragonfly

We have all been to lakes and ponds to enjoy various different activities. I remember when I was a kid and my parents took me to Lake Bastrop State Park which is about 30 miles east of Austin, TX off highway 71. We would camp, fish, play miniature golf, and just enjoy being outdoors among God's creation. One of the most fascinating creatures that we would watch darting to and fro, hovering here and there, was the dragonfly.

The scientific name for the dragonfly is "odonata." You most always see the dragonfly near the water because it is an aquatic insect. They lay their eggs in or on top of the water and in one to three weeks (depending upon the species) those eggs hatch into larvae. These larvae eat other insect's larvae like mosquitoes. They can also eat frog's eggs and small tadpoles. While the larva stage varies from three months to four years (depending upon the climate), the dragonflies we see around here usually become adults in the same season. Once the larva reach adulthood they climb onto the stem of a plant, shed their larval casing, and pump 'blood' into their wings. Then they fly off over land until their reproductive systems mature. After the reproductive systems mature, the dragonfly returns to the water to mate and to lay more eggs. The adult dragonfly may live from a few months to a year depending upon its climate.

Now, if you have ever watched a dragonfly, you know that this insect has amazing maneuverability techniques. They can fly forward and backward. They literally turn on a dime. Their unique eyes (with over 30,000 lenses) give them the ability to see 360 degrees around their body and they need this, because dragonflies can literally execute a hairpin turn at 100 kilometers per hour. At that speed a dragon-

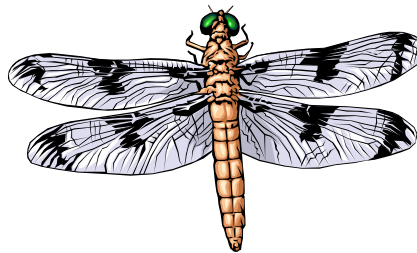
fly can experience a G-force of about 25 times the gravity of earth. In comparison, the most gravity force that a human fighter pilot can sustain without blacking out is about nine Gs. Pilots black out under such pressures because all of their blood rushes from their head to their legs. But how does the dragonfly keep this from happening?

Surrounding the internal organs of the dragonfly, are special bags of fluid. When the dragonfly executes one of these hairpin turns, these bags of fluid place pressure upon its internal organs. This keeps the 'blood' in the dragonfly's brain from being forced into its lower organs. Because the dragonfly's 'blood' is not forced out of its brain, the oxygen in that 'blood' keeps the dragonfly "awake."

In the December 2003 issue of National Geographic magazine, there is an article that discusses how German scientists, who have studied the dragonfly, are using this same technique to help fighter pilots not black out during sustained periods of high G forces. By placing bags of liquid around the pilots legs, the pilots blood will not be forced out of his brain when executing high G turns and maneuvers. What an amazing design to help pilots fly faster and with greater turning radiuses. That design, however, was first found in the dragonfly.

How do you suppose the dragonfly developed this ability over the eons of time that evolutionists claim that the dragonfly needed to evolve? Without the dragonfly's ability to see 360 degrees, it would not be able to fly so maneuverably. Without the dragonfly's "flight suit" it could not sustain the types of maneuvers that it does at the speeds that it does. The dragonfly's ability to fly depends both upon its ability to see and its ability to handle that type of flight. Evolu-

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Context

A wise man once observed, "A text taken out of its context becomes a pretext". In simpler terminology, this might be stated, Our best and most accurate assessment of a given thing will be realized when all relevant information about it is considered. Take for example, the word 'Repentance'. There is a constant and unchanging rule which always inheres true repentance. True repentance is a change of heart which manifests itself in a subsequent change of life. Such a mandate will always be present when there is true repentance. Sometimes the 'Context' of a given situation will provide insights, and understandings which clarify things that might otherwise seem different.

Observe: One who spoke unkindly to another, might satisfy true repentance by simply apologizing to them, and asking for forgiveness. On the other hand, one who has stolen from another has an altogether different obligation to satisfy, if true repentance is to be enjoyed. First, he must return the stolen goods. Then, he'll show his repentance by apologizing, and asking for forgiveness. One however, who kills another, must meet every requirement for true repentance, but try as he will, he cannot restore the life he has taken. Part of the penalty for such an act is paralleled in the sad lament of King David, following his adultery with Bathsheba, and the

murder of her husband Uriah. For I acknowledge my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. PSALM 51: 3 Although the sacred texts indicate that God forgave David, the memory of his transgression was always before him. A contrite heart and a sincere apology were present in each of the noted examples, as the offender asked for forgiveness in each case, but the consequences in each situation were dictated by the context.

How 'Public' should one's apology and plea for forgiveness be? As public as the offence is known! The Bible is very clear in this regard. If the offence is between one person and you, keep it that way, unless the offender proves that he will not abide Bible teaching. Observe: Moreover, if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: Matt. 18:15 This instruction is to correct a problem when one has done you wrong. What if a brother offended someone in Alabama and later decided he'd 'make things right', down in Louisiana? Could he do that? It depends entirely upon the context of his penitence. If he specified that his penitence and request for prayers should be made known to all whom he had offended in Alabama, surely this would suffice for true repentance. If he makes no attempt to correct his offence with brethren in Alabama, he has not truly repented. Examine the following Scripture, and be advised!

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tion could not have evolved the sight of the dragonfly first, because there would have been no need for that sight. Evolution could not have evolved its "flight suit" first, because there would be no need for the "suit." But if evolution evolved the ability of flight first, the dragonfly would have had a short life span, because it needs the "flight suit" and its ability to see in order to live with such flight. Moreover, given the reproductive cycle of the dragonfly, it would have had to develop all of these capabilities in a single generation for its order to survive.

Evolutionists must claim that the dragonfly evolved its capability of flight, its ability to sustain great G forces during flight, and its remarkable ability to see 360 degrees to aid in its flight simultaneously and in a relatively short period of time, or the dragonfly could not have appeared at all. Evolutionists claim that the dragonfly was one of the first insects to appear on the evolutionary timetable, giving the dragonfly even less time to "evolve." The probability of the dragonfly evolving all of these capabilities at the same time and in the limited time period evolutionists give it, is astronomically low, if not impossible.

The genius design that is evident within the dragonfly tells the true tale. The dragonfly did not evolve; it was

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Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 3/28/04

Morning	God's Pattern—The Bible
Scripture	Romans 6:17
Evening	The Book of Jude
Scripture	Jude 1-3
Sunday Morning Bible Study	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	How to Study the Bible

Weekly Record

Week of 3/21/04

Sunday Class	56
Sunday A.M.	76
Sunday P.M.	59
Wednesday	52
Contribution.....	\$1611.73
Budget	\$1778.13

Article Title

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Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift MATTHEW 5: 23, 24 This instruction is to correct a problem if you are the offender. It is my firm belief and conviction, that one cannot be pleasing to Almighty God, in any place, while there is an unresolved offence between himself and a brother. Therefore, one who is guilty of offending a brother, or multiple individuals in a congregation, will of necessity have to clear the offence with the offended (however few or many this might be) before he can find acceptance in the eyes of God. If that is not correct, what purpose does the foregoing Scripture serve? It specifically requires reconciliation with an offended brother, before God will ac-

cept the gift he brings to the altar. One cannot offend in Pascagoula and then run up to Jackson and think that his petition for forgiveness will be honored by God. It won't happen! Bring forth therefore fruits meet to repentance MATT. 3:8 (i.e. Your actions must show that you've repented!)

Bob Howton



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created, by a Power that knows a lot more about air travel than we do. We are just beginning to unravel the mysteries of the abilities of birds and bugs to sustain incredible feats of flight. Is it even possible that a mindless random system produced such incredible, and until recently, inexplicable capabilities? No. Just as there is a designer of fighter jets and flight suits, so also is there a designer of the dragonfly, the Almighty God of the universe.

Kevin Cauley

Kevin's Korner

Should have expected it sooner or later. I was hoping that it would not get me this year. Seems like this is always the time of the year for it, however. The TV commercials are starting to focus on it. The TV weather men are starting to count it. You might have guessed it by now.

The pollen is floating.
The lawns are mowed being.
The pets are shedding.
The dust is stirring.
And I am coughing,
Wheezing, and sneezing.

You have probably guessed by now that I am talking about allergy season. I sure thought that what I had this past Wednesday was a cold. In fact, I was hoping it was a cold, but it was just those yearly allergies. There are several lessons to be learned

here.

First, I can't even see most pollen, but I know that it is there because of the affects it has on my body. Paul wrote in Romans 1:20, *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"* Just like pollen is "invisible" so also is God. I can know pollen is there because of my allergies. I also can know that God exists because of the things around me He has created.

Second, it is amazing how something so small can cause such big problems. This reminds me what James said regarding the tongue. James 3:5, *"Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"* The tongue is such a small member of our body, but often times

it is the loudest and it gets the most attention. We may not be able to do very much about pollen, but we would do well to heed James advice in controlling our tongues.

Finally, we see a testimony in nature to God's great design. While pollen may be irritating, without it, so much beauty in this world would be gone. God's design is perfect. Everything works together for good.

Elders:

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn
Quigley

Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,
Rusty Windle.

Preacher:

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

News, Notes, and 'Nouncements

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- Opal Hull was admitted to the Berryville hospital yesterday due to heart problems. Please remember her in your prayers.
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Michael Collins, Justina Goucher, Brian Guess, Hulen Penn, Chris Pinkley.
- Please remember the following shut ins in your prayers: Curtis Hull, Edith Mischler, Mary Patterson, Art Roberts.
- Today, all are invited to Raymond Kimes' house in honor of his 85th birthday. The reception will be from 1 to 4 this afternoon. Raymond requests no gifts, please.
- There will be no potluck today due to continued efforts working in the basement. Potluck has been cancelled for the month of March (blame Rusty, not me.)
- Next week we will meet to put out House to House and Heart to Heart. Please make your plans.
- We have a few Spiritual Sword issues on the back table on the subject of Instrumental Music. The elders purchased enough for each family to have one. If you have not gotten one yet, please do so.
- Our regular elders and deacons meeting will be held next Sunday evening after services. If you have something for that meeting please see one of those men.
- The pantry item for this week is Salad Dressing.



Welcome!

To the Berryville church of Christ.

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:..... 9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 PM
 Ladies Bible Class: 10:30 AM
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: 7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	March 28th, 2004	April 4th, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Bill Fort	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Leon Duncan
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Sandy Nieves
Lord's Table	Matt Bassing	Brent Stevens
	John Gass	Dan Hand
(assist)	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster
	Perry Foster	Jerry Roller
Closing Prayer	Rusty Windle	John Gass
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Bruce Foster
Scripture Reading:	Bruce Foster	Dale Pinkley
Lord's Table	Dale Pinkley	Matt Bassing
	Brandon Foster	Jack Gentry
Closing Prayer	Brent Stevens	Rusty Windle
Wednesday		
Songs:	Sandy Nieves	Hugh Atchley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Ken Smith
Invitation:	Brent Stevens	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer:	Cody Moore	George Eddings

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