

Remnant Life Church  
January 26, 2020

## ON EAGLES WINGS

### Part 2a

### God's Ornithological Society – The Church

The Bible tells us in the first chapter of Genesis that God created the birds of the air on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the week of creation (**Gen 1:20-23**)

- He created them each unto their own kind
- Meaning a tremendous variety
  - Ornithologists believe there are between 9,800 and 10,700 different species of bird
  - The range difference comes from disagreement in classifications within the scientific community
- Their variety is staggering
  - From the Bee Hummingbird that is less than 2 inches
  - To the Ostrich which can reach a height of over 9 feet
- He created them to have dominion over the air
- Well certainly the eagle is in the place of dominion

**(Pics)** Eagle head; Golden Eagle; Flying Bald; RLC logo

**(Pics)** Eagle Radio Station, American Eagle Outfitter; Boston College; United States Postal Service; President of USA; Philadelphia Eagles

Review of last week:

- The Eagle has been revered down through history in virtually every culture
- It has been worshipped and been the emblem of nations and royalty and, as you just saw, many businesses, schools, and organizations
- As revered as it has been and continues to be within our cultures, the Eagle is how God wants us to live in Him

**Isa 40:31** - *...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

This morning...if we are to be like the eagle in our walk with the Lord and in this place where we gather together, we must also be aware that there are other types of birds who occupy the church as well

- The worst quality traits of these birds we must be on guard to protect ourselves and the church from
- Why is this important?
  - We must be watchful for anything that will attempt to deny what God wants to do in and through us

- We must guard our own lives and know the signs if we are being led, through our actions, our words, or our thoughts to become one of these birds

## **Birds of the Church**

### 1. Chicken

- a. It is the most common and numerous of all birds in the world
  - i. In 2011 the count was estimated to be more than 9 billion worldwide
  - ii. The chicken in ancient cultures was considered sacred
  - iii. There are still some cultures in existence today; cultures with close association to Hinduism
- b. The chicken, or a close variation, can also be found in the Scriptures
  - i. In **Mark 14** Jesus told Peter that before the rooster crowed he would deny him three times
  - ii. In **Matt 23:37** Jesus says, *Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.*
- c. By nature, they are generally very timid and seldom fly (very short distances)

### **In the Church**

- d. This person usually has a low self-image
- e. Perhaps they feel they are just of the crowd with nothing to offer and no desire to change their situation
- f. When they are sick or in need they have very little desire to let someone else know or to pray or be prayed for to receive healing in their lives
  - i. Why?
  - ii. Because it is their identity
  - iii. Their need, struggles, or sickness is what sets them apart
  - iv. In their minds, it is what makes them special
- g. The problem is that attitude can spread quickly
- h. Instead of a church filled with vibrant, faith-filled, loving people, we have a henhouse filled with sickly, tired, and selfish birds who are only really concerned about their own condition and maintaining it so they can feel a little sense of importance
- i. **Col 1:9b-12** - *We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: **bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.***
- j. Chickens would not want to be this kind of believer
  - i. Like their namesake bird in the world, there are a lot of this type of person in the church who won't go to others for prayer or support

- ii. It is why they don't ever come to feel like they are a real part of a church family

## 2. Pigeon

- a. Pigeons and Doves are from the same family in the bird tree
  - i. Although our views of them are very different
  - ii. Most of us think of the Pigeon is a city bird
  - iii. While the Dove, of course, is the most often thought symbol of peace
  - iv. There are ten of the 310 species of this bird that have gone extinct with two being the most famous
    - 1. The first is the Passenger Pigeon – hunted to extinction – last in 1914
    - 2. The second, the Dodo
- b. Both are found in the Bible
  - i. The pigeon is listed most often having to do with the OT sacrificial requirements with the pigeon available cheaply for the poor to obey the command
  - ii. The dove, however, received a much higher distinction
    - 1. It was the dove that Noah released out of the Ark window to determine the water level – returning with an olive branch
    - 2. The dove could also be used in the sacrificial rites of the people
    - 3. The psalmist used the dove as a symbol of innocence
    - 4. The prophets of the OT used the dove's mournful cry as a sign of heartache and trouble
    - 5. Of course, the dove is also the symbol of the Holy Spirit in many artistic paintings as the HS came down in the form of a dove and lit on Jesus as He was coming out of the water from being baptized
      - a. That is the only place in the Scripture where the concept of the Trinity is seen
      - b. God the Father speaking, God the Son coming out of the water, and God the HS in the form of a dove ([John 1:9-11](#))

### **In the Church**

- c. The pigeon type person is soft and cuddly, friendly, even loving
- d. But they never take a firm stand on anything...
  - i. ...not in their lives when they need to take a stand for what is right and biblical
    - 1. It is why they often give into to temptation
  - ii. ...not in the church when conviction should be embraced
    - 1. My greatest desire when I preach is, first, I am preaching the words God wants me to say
    - 2. Second, the words are penetrating the hearts of those who hear them through the power of God
    - 3. It is why I am always delighted when someone comes up after a service and tells me how the sermon impacted them (NOT because of me)

4. Several years ago there was about a month of time when Jeff Beane would come up to me after the service and say, “You have GOT to stop preaching at me!”
  - e. The pigeon is also rarely if ever around when things get difficult, or you really need them to just show up
    - i. They can’t be counted on
  - f. So instead of a member of the church who is excited about new ways to serve God they are content to just hang back, say nice things, give lots of hugs, but they never invest of themselves in the church or in others
3. Crow
- a. Another name of this type of bird is Raven as there are no real set distinctions between them
  - b. They are exceptionally bright
    - i. Scientists studying them have not only observed tool use but tool construction
    - ii. They are now considered one of the most intelligent animals of all
  - c. A symbol in literature and film of evil
    - i. Often representing satan
    - ii. Often being in the presence of demons, evil, or death
  - d. The Bible calls this bird a raven
    - i. It was the first bird Noah sent out to search for dry land
    - ii. It was one of the birds that the Israelites were forbidden to eat – called unclean
    - iii. It was the bird God used to provide Elijah with food when he was being hidden by God from the evil King Ahab (**I Kings 17:4**)

### **In the Church**

- e. Because of its intelligence, it one of the most cunning and dangerous birds
- f. But its only goal is to please itself
- g. Will tear through anyone or anything that stands in its way
  - i. It might be something very overt
  - ii. Or it might be very subtle
- h. Especially delights when it can “get” a leader
  - i. Catch him in an error
  - ii. Make things difficult
  - iii. “Take him down a peg or two”
  - iv. Preached at a church several years ago and I always watched for this one man who usually made a beeline for me after the service...
- i. So instead of someone in your church with tremendous gifts to offer, you have a person who must always be watched, always guarded against, someone you can never trust or get close to, and always be wary of the damage they may do to others
- j. **I Tim 6:20** - ...guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,