

“Yep...It’s Monday...Again!”

“Yep, it’s Monday...again! And I am sitting here in my office a little after 7:00 a.m.” If that sounds vaguely familiar, it should, cause that is exactly how I started my article last month, only without the “again!” But here I sit, again...because Sherrie told me I had to...something about getting out the newsletter this week or else. You know, she can be that way sometimes...just say’n! So anyways, here I sit, trying to make one of my loyal readers happy again this month by producing another “short” article...yes, I did say “short.”

You see, there is this guy, I’m not going to say who he is cause I don’t want to call him out, from South Side Baptist, whom we will refer to as B.A., which works because his name is Brant Anderson. So B.A., he like comes up to me every time I cook BBQ and tells me he read my article that month and then he’ll refer to something in the article to prove that he did. But then, as if he has done something impressive, B.A. wants to know if he can get extra helpings of BBQ because he read my article...kinda as a reward I guess. What B.A. is actually saying is that the massive length of my articles deserves an extra something for having endured reading it all the way through...yep, that’s kinda what he’s say’n! So, I’ll usually laugh and say, “Bless your heart,” and slap on another heaping helping of que just like I do for everybody else whether they have read my article or not. Mark Hamm once told me my articles are so long that he breaks them down by paragraphs and turns them into daily devotional readings...now that’s just funny!

Well, Sunday night at a church gathering at Lighthouse Ministries in Abbeville, where South Side was in attendance, old B.A. comes up to me and says, “Hey man, thanks for saving me some time last month.” Not understanding what he meant, I asked him to explain. He said, “Your article...last month...it was shorter than normal...yep, you saved me a bunch of time reading it...thanks!” And I thought, yeah, the only reason he gave me that back-handed compliment which wasn’t a compliment at all, was because I wasn’t serving BBQ at the time. No, his paw-n-law, Mr. Jimmy, had cooked up some hot dogs, so B.A. had nothing to lose by gouging me a bit about the length of my articles. I thought, yep, next time I’m cook’n que...and you’s there B.A., well, let’s jest say, you might want to bring yo’self a hot dog...if you get my drift!

Now, back to my original point! It’s 7:00 a.m. Monday morning, the temp outside is 36, the rut is full on, the moon phase is perfect, the deer movement chart is off the chain all day long, and here I sit, trying to write a short article so B.A. can get another help’n of que! Really? Why no self respecting deer hunter would be sitting here doing what I’m doing. I guarantee, all ‘dem Sprouse boys, Jimmy, Stanley, Chuck and Preston, and others like, Mark Hamm, Bryant Sims, Todd Calhoun, jest to name a few, are sitting in a deer

stand this morning...but me, oh no, I’m sitting at a desk. I try to get Addie Lee to skip school and hunt, but she keeps say’n something about kinda wanting to get into college...whatever! My daughter Emily complains cause she says I’ve turned her husband Justin, into a deer hunt’n fanatic. I think she oughta be thanking me...cause if it keeps him off the golf course, that oughta be seen as a good thing...cause golf courses can ruin a man! Yep, we deer hunters take it seriously...but never the less, here I sit. So, I hope you’re happy Sherrie...just say’n! As my dear wife would say about now, “Po thang, I think I’m starting to hear some teensy- weensy, etty-bitty violins play’n!”

Anyways, my deer hunt’n buds understand! You see, it’s especially hard to “not” hunt, when trail cams (cameras) are tak’n pics of mega bucks moving at all times of the day. Now trail cams are amazing, they let you see what you otherwise would never see or know is happening out in the woods. The other day, I stayed in a tree till nearly noon, all because the day before my trail cam caught one of them mega bucks cruising past my stand at 10:39 in the morning. Who woulda known without trail cams...right? Yep, trail cams tell you all kind of stuff that’s happening in the woods all around your stand that you simply would not have known otherwise. It makes for much greater anticipation while sitting up in a tree when you think bucks with names like, Freak Daddy, the Claw, the Big Island Nine, the Big Six, Half-rack, and other un-named bucks, might come cruising passed your stand. Trail cams help you to see what you’d never see otherwise. They are marvelous tools!

Likewise, after nearly a lifetime of serving the Lord and reading His word, I have become incredibly aware of the spiritual forces that are at work all around us, even when we don’t see them first hand. God kinda gives us snapshots with a spiritual cam, called the Bible. For in the Bible, both angels (which I have never seen) and demons (which I also have never seen) are spoken of with regularity from Genesis to Revelation. Daniel speaks about his “vision of a man,” Jesus cast out demons, an angel spoke to Mary about her upcoming birth, Peter said, “to be on guard against the devil who roams around like a roaring lion,” Paul said to put on the “armor of God” for there are powers and principalities at work in our world, and on and on and on the Bible speaks. The unseen spiritual realm is active indeed!

I have often said that there is more going on in the unseen spiritual world around us that we cannot see than in the physical world we can see. We all need to remain constantly vigilant against the evil forces which seek to trip us up, causing us to lose our witness and testimony by tempting us to fall into sin. But at the same time, we need to be constantly grateful to God because of His Spirit that is at work within us. John says, “Greater is He [God] that is in us than he [Satan] that is in the world.” Our God is greater! And He...our great God...is at work all around us, even when we do not see Him! Can I get an “Amen?”