

The Oyster and the Eagle

Here's your thought for the day: Compare the oyster and the eagle.

Well, where did that strange idea come from?

It is spelled out in *Turning Points: Moments of Decision in the Presence of God*, a book written by Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California.

This is what he wrote about these two very different creatures in nature:

- The oyster has a rock-hard home to protect it from predators and opens its shell whenever it wants nourishment.
- The eagle resides on freezing and exposed mountain crags and flies through miles of dangerous weather in search of food.
- The oyster is completely secure, while the eagle is completely free.

"Which did America choose as its national symbol," Dr. Jeremiah asked.

"Animals don't choose their lifestyles; they just follow their God-given instincts," he said. "So we can't be too critical of the one over the other. But all too often, we see humans who choose worldly security over spiritual freedom. They invest all their time and talent in laying up treasures on earth. Security against the unexpected becomes their obsession."

In our world today, security is heavy on the minds of people everywhere, given the increasing number of attacks by terrorists – even here in our homeland in the United States.

There's nothing wrong with security, of course, Dr. Jeremiah pointed out. "The question is, where do we seek it: in God or in the things of the world? Do a security check in your own life. Wherever you find some insecurities, look at them against the backdrop of God's great resources, not your own."

Oysters may be secure and eagles may be free, but Christians are both secure and free when we live in dependence on God.

As the popular American spiritual proclaims, "He's got the whole world in His hands." That truth should be a comfort to us in uncertain times.

And we know where believers in Christ are headed once this life is over.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (Matthew 6:33 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter