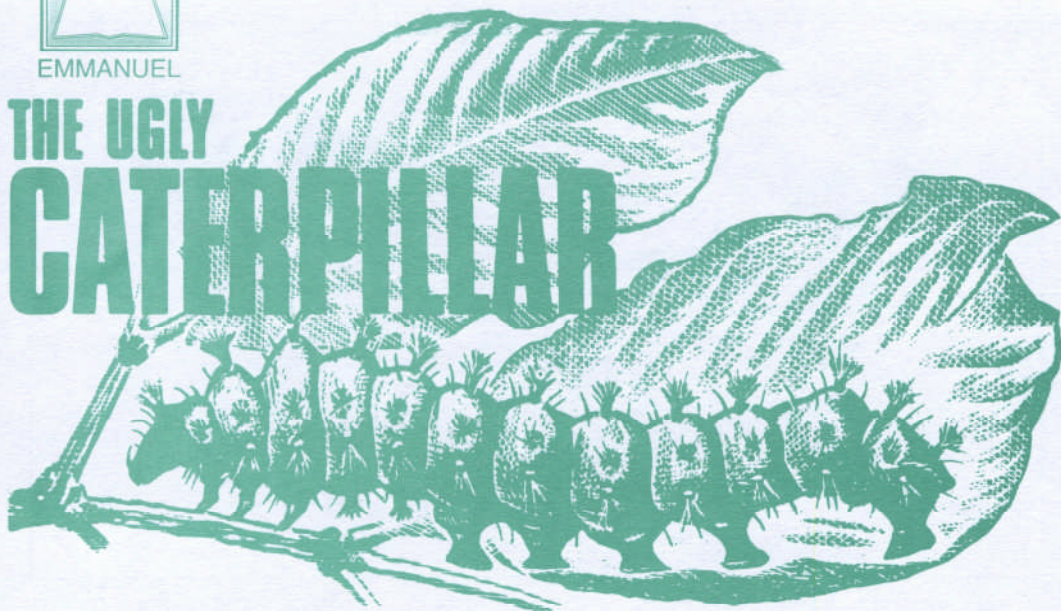




EMMANUEL

THE UGLY CATERPILLAR



I want to tell you a story about a hairy brown caterpillar. He is an ugly creature. Nobody likes him because, if your skin touches his hair, you become itchy. Also he is always hungry and spends his life eating plants in the garden.

Because he eats so much, he grows bigger and bigger until his skin bursts. What do you think happens then? Well he just crawls right out of it! And the strange thing is that he does not look any different, because there is another skin underneath.

Later, as the weather cools off, the caterpillar crawls onto a branch of a tree and spins a blanket around himself. This is called a cocoon. Then he goes to sleep for the winter.

As summer comes, the cocoon opens, and what do you suppose comes out? Well, it is not the ugly hairy caterpillar but a pretty butterfly. During the winter, something had been happening in that cocoon. The ugly caterpillar had miraculously changed to a beautiful butterfly.

Do you know that sin has made us ugly too, far more ugly than the caterpillar? The Bible says that we are all like an unclean thing in the sight of God and that no one on his own can please Him (Psalm 14:3). But we don't have to

stay like that. We too can be changed miraculously into a beautiful new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Some people think they can do this themselves. They believe that by doing their best, God will let them into heaven when they die. But doing good things does not change them. They are like the caterpillar that crawled out of his skin and looked just the same. It was not until he was completely changed into a butterfly by God's miracle of nature that he became a different creature.





Our hearts have to be changed miraculously, and only God can do that by His Holy Spirit. God cannot allow anyone into heaven who has the slightest sin in his heart. The Bible says in Romans 3:23 that all have sinned, so nobody can ever get there in his unchanged state.

However, in John 3:16 we read that God sent His only Son Jesus to die on the Cross to pay for our sin. If we will believe this and receive Jesus into our heart, He will forgive us and change us by His Spirit from the old sin-loving creature to a new creature. Then we will love Jesus and want to do things pleasing to Him, because He has given us a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26).

Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins

and to come into your heart? He longs for you to do so. While He was on earth, He said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16). Though He has ascended into heaven since then, Jesus has not changed. He still wants to come into your heart and make you a new person. We do not understand how He does it, but let us believe and leave the miracle to Him.

To everybody Jesus says, "Come unto Me ALL you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Won't you come to Him in faith right now? Hand over your problems to Him, and He will give you rest and bring about a change in your life.

If you wish to know

more about Jesus, a free correspondence course is available.

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