For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. – Romans 5:6

"That's a knotty problem!" This figure of speech is used to describe a problem that's complex and difficult to solve – filled with knots, so to speak. Today, we're going to talk about a knotty solution that God has given to a fish that's been called the most disgusting creature in the sea.

The hagfish has a rather nauseating form of self-defense. As soon as a predator disturbs it, the little creature instantaneously releases slime into the water. This slime quickly clogs the predator's mouth and gills, causing it to beat a hasty retreat. The microfibrous slime absorbs water, creating a huge amount of the gooey stuff. In fact, a hagfish can fill a large home aquarium with slime within a matter of seconds.

But the slime isn't healthy for the hagfish either. What is he going to do to keep from clogging his own gills? His Creator has given this creature the ability to literally tie itself into an overhand knot by curling its own body around itself. The fish then manipulates the knot toward its other end, scraping the slime off its body.

The knotty solution that God has given to the hagfish can't begin to compare to the solution that God has given us to escape from the knotty problem of sin. We don't have the ability to rid ourselves of the sin that clings to us like the slime on a hagfish. That's why God removes the penalty and power of sin when we put our faith in Jesus.


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