



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to examine just one element of a passage that references snow and is "packed" with many powerful lessons. There is no way to cover the

depth of this passage in this short space but I hope we can look at one brief thought. The one element I hope to highlight from Isaiah 1:18 is the reference of the forgiveness of sins pictured in the phrase "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow..."

Regarding the forgiveness of sins in the Old Testament, some have said that the sins before Christ were only rolled back or held in suspension since only Christ's blood is efficacious regarding sin. Others have sometimes said they were "rolled forward." That is quite true, but that is seeing the thing from God's viewpoint. From man's standpoint, forgiveness in Old Testament times was just as real and full and complete as it is now. David was really forgiven. Abraham was fully forgiven. Isaiah says, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool (1:18). Forgiveness under the Old Testament was real.

What then is different after the cross with regard to sin-covering? The New Testament looks back on a deed already done (the sacrifice of Christ) rather than forward on a deed yet to be done (as was the case in the Old Testament). There is no difference in the quality of the forgiveness, but there is an enormous difference in the quality of the assurance of forgiveness.

Since this is the case should it not be the case that we would look at our lives differently? Instead of us asking what we want God to do in our life (He has already done for us what we needed most) maybe we should ask, "What does God want me to do with the life He has given me?" In this way, we express with our life the thanksgiving we should feel for the fact that for mankind throughout all time, though our sins were as scarlet, they can be as white as snow! Look at the snow outside and see how it covers the deadness of nature. Be thankful it is used by the Holy Spirit to describe the "covering" of the deadness of sin that depicted us without the sacrifice and blood of Christ!

jfb

As I write this article this morning, I am sitting at home with the snow coming down. It is a beautiful sight to behold. God has provided many beautiful pictures in nature. You may prefer the bright greens of early spring or the various colors of fall. You may even prefer the beauty of snow. Indeed God's beauty is seen in nature! But as Paul writes in Romans, God's beauty through nature is not all He provides—God also has revealed Himself more fully through Scripture! Are you aware that Scripture refers to snow more than twenty times? Let us consider just a few of those passages together. We will look at one here and we will consider another in *Confidence Corner* (to the left on the page).

In second Samuel 23:20 we read, "Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done mighty deeds, killed the two sons of Ariel of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in the middle of a pit on a snowy day." Here was one of the mighty men of God who did not let snow hinder him from utilizing the power he had from God. Now I would not suggest trying this same feat...we might have to look for quite a while in Kentucky to find a pit containing a lion. I am also not suggesting risking your health or safety by suggesting getting out and going when the State has requested that we stay off the roads. But think of what you can accomplish today or on any snow day! Think of just one power God has provided you—the power of prayer!

No doubt a snow day will slow you down. Many will not leave their house. So why not take time on such a day as an individual (as well as a family) to spend some time in prayer. Many in our physical families are dealing with illness and life threatening diseases. Spend time in prayer for them. Many others are dying spiritually as the disease of sin has overtaken their lives. Why not pray for them that they will seek a sure cure for what ails them—the saving blood of Jesus.

You do not have to go down in a pit on a snowy day and slay a lion, but you can accomplish wonderful things today by utilizing the power of prayer. It is a gift from God given to believers! jfb

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — Mitchell Lockhart to speak

**P.M. — Christianity
Acts 24:10-16**

[Below is an article by Gus Nichols that I thought was an excellent article. Brother Nichols was the father of one of our previous preachers at Elizabethtown, Flavil Nichols. I loved hearing another one of his sons, Hardeman, speak of Gus coming in from working the fields all day and watching him put pine knots in the fireplace to make the light bright enough to read the Bible. When he would tire, he would cover one eye and read with the other. When it would tire he would switch eyes. Love these great men of God and thought we could learn from their writings. I thought of two different ways we might use this article. First, we can store it away in our minds lest we are ever tempted to quit running the Christian Race (or if God forbid, we would ever actually quit the Race for some reason). Second, we could perhaps cut this page off of the bulletin and send it to someone you know who once attended here, or elsewhere but has stopped running the Race. Perhaps it will remind them they CAN choose to begin running it again]. JFB

TRY RUNNING AGAIN

Gus Nichols

Perhaps some reader has tried to be a Christian, but failed. If so, why not try again? Great success does not always come from a single effort. Worthwhile things are always worth trying and striving for, even if we must try again and again. In the year 1917, a tornado destroyed our home, blew it away and ruined our crops out on the farm before it tore up Carbon Hill, Alabama, and left the dead homeless in its wake. But we did not give up and quit. The next spring we found ourselves planting again, and soon we were growing crops.

Life is like that. Wars are not usually won by a single battle. But battle after battle must be fought before the victory is won. In a way, some of the battles are lost, but victory belongs to those who win the last battle.

Very few spend a long life in the service of Christ without ever getting discouraged, and for the moment, giving up in despair. But those who overcome the world are they who (if need be) try again and again – who refuse to surrender to the evil one. If they fail, they go down fighting – soon to rise again.

It is easy to give up and quit when the going gets rough, as it most certainly will – sooner or later. Long roads usually have some detours and rough places over which one must travel in order to reach the desired destiny.

The Christian life is like running a race (Heb. 12:1-2; I Cor. 9:25-27). If one fails he should get up and try again. The New Birth is a sort of “Land of Beginning Again” (John 3:5). So is a restoration of an erring child of God (Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20).