



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we will consider James' inspired instruction regarding "favoritism." In James 2:1 we read, "My brethren, hold not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the

Lord of glory, with respect of persons." What a misunderstanding is presented when Christians act in such a way! James warns us that sin is committed when Christians judge others by the world's standards, not by God's. Trying to hold to faith in Jesus and the standards of the world at the same time is an impossible task. Like doubt in prayer, it makes one "double-minded" (James 1:8).

James urges his brothers to be consistent. To have faith in Jesus is to judge by His standards. They must listen to the difficult message that God chooses those they would not choose, those poor in the eyes of the world (see 1 Corinthians 1:27-28). True religion is to help widows and orphans, not to grovel before the rich. Christians must keep themselves from being negatively impacted by worldly values (James 1:27).

Discriminating against the poor goes against the very nature of the God who is no respecter of persons. To James, it also makes no practical sense. Why insult the poor, when God loves them? Why make over the rich, when they are the ones who oppress Christians?

How ridiculous it is for Christians to claim to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory and give preference to those in "sparkling clothing." Remember the Lord of glory is often depicted as one with radiance. I doubt the rich in their entire splendor could compare to the appearance of Jesus. Most important to remember is that, rather than notice any element of an outward appearance, why not focus on that which equals us all—a soul made in the image of God.

jfb

As July 4th rolls around, we often look forward to the cookouts, fireworks, and backyard games. I always look forward to the watermelon and the homemade ice cream. Being a history buff I also like to reflect upon the sacrifice

made for us on that day 242 years ago. I think about the men who stood in independence hall where they dared to stand against a foreign government. One man even signed his name so large that there would be no possible way for King George to look over it. It would be the first of many where the American people, stood for the greater good. 242 years ago we declared our independence from Great Britain thanks to a list of men who took charge.

Not only has independence been declared from a foreign power, our independence from sin was declared long before July 4, 1776. One man's sacrifice gained independence for all of mankind. Satan has been making slaves to his cause for millennium. In Romans 6: 5-14 Paul is writing, "**We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.**" When we become a Christian we are set free from Satan, because of the blood of Christ.

Like the men who signed the letter that would ultimately lead to the independence of the United States of America, Christ signed the letter that **SEALED** the independence of His Church. Christ's blood has set me free. Many of you will focus on the fireworks in the sky or the sparkler in your hand, but I challenge you to focus on the greatest freedom we as Christians can inherit. If we follow Christ through baptism (death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus) we will also live with him (v.8). Where will your mind be come independence day? I hope you pause to think about not only the physical freedoms we have here in America, but also the spiritual freedom we have in His church.

Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — The Great Designer
Psalm 19:1**

**P.M. — Job's Test
Job 23:1-4**

TEACHER

Jesus is the Master Teacher! When others heard Him teach, they were “astonished at His teaching for He taught them as one who had authority and not as one of the scribes” (Matthew 7:28-29). The soldiers who were told to go and arrest Jesus came back empty handed. When asked why they said, “Never man so spake” (John 7:46).

If we are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus (1 Peter 2:21) then we too are to be teachers—teachers of God love, grace, justice, wrath and mercy. We do that, in part, through the examples of our lives. But there are others who also make a special effort to reach young and old alike by teaching the Bible!

Parents need to be the most influential teacher in the lives of their children! Duet. 6:4ff points out the need to teach our children while we are at home and while we are out and about. Take every opportunity to teach your children about God! God has given the responsibility to men to lead the Lord’s Church in public instruction. Women though also assume an outstanding role in the instruction of children.

In our Bible class program, we have both women and men involved in the teaching of the Bible. The ladies teach our little ones! As the young people grow older, men assume that role. Additionally we have those who are willing to teach at camp and in our VBS. How I appreciate these teachers is hard to put into words.

I thought it was well past time that I write and say thank you to all those who teach in our Bible class program. You all are amazing. We have had those who have taught for decades. We also have new young ladies who are willing to assume the role of teacher. James, of course, warns those who teach of the awesome responsibility they are assuming. I am so thankful for all our teachers who take their teaching responsibility serious and whose love for the children is conveyed through their sacrifice of time and study!

So to all our teachers allow me to extend a great big:

THANK YOU !!!!!

John F Board
Elizabethtown, KY