



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 want to look at "misplaced confidence." In the article on the opposite column in this week's *Caller* we highlighted our need to trust in God. Sometimes people choose

not to do so and as such find themselves opposed to God.

Sometimes people will place their trust in money or even their own health. Someone who is in excellent shape may believe that they will have much time here upon the earth to accomplish all of their desired goals. Sometimes those who trusted in their strong health to provide them time to accomplish all their dreams fail to consider that we cannot control daily actions. Someone who is very healthy could be in an accident that takes his or her life.

Sometimes people look to money as the focus of their trust. I was just reading of a man from New York who hit the jackpot on a scratch off ticket. He won 1 million dollars and decided to take the \$661,800.00 lump sum payoff. The problem was that 3 weeks later he died from cancer. This man was only 51 years old (It just hit me that he was younger than me).

Really the only place where our trust is not misplaced is in God. You see we are not guaranteed any amount of time here upon the earth. Even if we are in the best shape of our life, and even if no accident takes our life, we do not know when our Lord might return. Then all the vanity of life will be for naught. The only thing that will matter will be whether we placed our trust in the One in Whom we stand before.

Why is our trust in God not misplaced? Our trust is not misplaced in God because He has proven Himself faithful over and over again. How blessed that an all powerful and loving God has loved us enough to provide a place of true confidence!

jfb

I often stress our need to trust God. Whether it is Jesus teaching this principle over and over again or other writers of Scripture. In Matthew 6:33 we read, "seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." I pray at almost every meal the principle Jesus taught when he taught His disciples to pray "give us this day our daily bread." Each time we are hungry it can be a reminder that we need God because He ultimately provides!

In that connection I was reading a passage in Ecclesiastes that really stuck out to me. Ecclesiastes 6:12 reads "a person only has a few days of life on the earth (this is in comparison to eternity and trust me even when you are almost 53 it seems like just a short time). His short life passes as a shadow. AND WHO KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR HIM WHILE HE LIVES?"

I capitalized that last part because it is what I really want to emphasize. Samuel Cox wrote, "It is impossible for you to know what is good for you to have...that on which you set your heart may prove to be evil rather than good when at last you get it." As we read this passage perhaps it can lead us to the thought "let's continue to do what we can with our lives...always doing all that we do to the best of our ability and to the glory of God...and trust that He will provide what is best."

I don't know about you, but I can have a tendency to try to control the events of my life. I perhaps put a little too much emphasis on my part and fail to place my full trust in God. Proverbs 3:5-6 is a needed reminder for me. Perhaps it is for you as well. "Trust in the LORD always and lean not on thine own understanding. In all of your way acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." I hope your week is going well.

jfb

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It! Ephesians 1:7

P.M. — Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus Matthew 12:30

Who Is the Most Trusted Person?

As I was sitting here trying to decide what to write for this week's *Caller* I began to wonder, "Who would Americans say was the most trusted person?" I had no real hope that it would be Jesus, but I was surprised at what I found when I searched the question. Below are some of the people that Americans picked as most trustworthy. I think you may find it interesting—I know I did!

1. Tom Hanks
2. Sandra Bullock
3. Denzel Washington
4. Meryl Streep

Notice that the top four are actors/actresses. That is interesting.

At #8 was Alex Trebek and Julia Roberts at #10 rounded out the top Ten. Numbers 11-20 included Dr. Oz, Ellen DeGeneres, and Michelle Obama. Does this surprise anyone? Did I mention this was a Reader's Digest poll?

The person known in some way for religious leanings was Tony Dungy at #21. The next closest was Tim Tebow at #40. I wonder what it says about Americans polled if the highest-ranking person known to the world as a spokesman for God is Billy Graham at # 67? Before you answer that, let me tell you who were some of those who ranked ahead of him.

The list of those that Americans thought was more trustworthy than the first "preacher" they mentioned included, but is not limited to, George Lucas, Whoopi Goldberg, Anderson Cooper, Hillary Clinton, Eli Manning, and Oprah Winfrey. Matt Lauer made the list at #87 (surely this poll is a few years old).

If we change the question a bit from most trustworthy to most influential, it still does not come out as being favorable to Jesus Christ! According to Michal H. Hast, from the book '100 most influential people in the world' this is the ranking of who had done the most to influence the world:

- Muhammad (570 – 632 AD) Prophet of Islam.
- Isaac Newton (1642 – 1727) – British mathematician and scientist.
- Jesus Christ (c.5BC – 30 AD) Spiritual teacher and central figure of Christianity.
- Buddha (c 563 – 483 BC) Spiritual Teacher and founder of Buddhism.
- Confucius (551 – 479 BC) – Chinese philosopher.

Jesus is third behind a false prophet and a scientist and amongst other spiritual teachers and philosophers. Wow, is there any wonder why the world is the way it is?

From the beginning of time man has chosen to ignore God and His will (Genesis 3) and like the beginning of time God still cries out to man, "Where are you" (Genesis 3:9)? He longs for us to seek and follow Him—we continue to make Him irrelevant to our lives.

I wish we lived in a world that if asked, "Who is the most trusted and influential person to ever live?" the question would be answered unanimously with only one choice—Jesus Christ!

*John F. Board
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