



# 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* I want to provide a bit of information regarding the people and language of Akkad. Sometimes people are confused when I tell them I am currently writing something

that compares/contrasts the Hebrew language, Sumerian Language, and Akkadian language. Why would I do this? Let me try to explain.

Akkadian describes both the first known Semitic invaders of Mesopotamia and the language they spoke. Under Sargon the Great, the Akkadians conquered Mesopotamia. Their ancient capital Akkad, (Agade), is mentioned in Genesis 10:10 as one of the cities of Shinar (Mesopotamia).

Akkadian studies have had an effect on Old Testament studies in at least four areas. First, the meanings of many Hebrew words have been determined or clarified by Akkadian cognates. Second, the literary (poetic) texts and legal texts have provided a rich source for comparative study of Old Testament poetry and law texts. Third, historical accounts and international treaties provide a broad framework for understanding biblical events and sometimes mention events and persons known also from the Bible. Fourth, the Akkadian religious myths have included accounts of creation and flood, as well as prophetic oracles, curses and blessings, and prayers, which provide a basis for understanding both the common Semitic heritage and the uniqueness of Israel's faith.

In my current writing project, I hope to provide evidence of the uniqueness of Israel's faith. The unique element I hope to highlight is the presence of Deity in the lives of the Hebrews. This should provide hope and context to the Christian's faith today.

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With this week's dose of weekly manna we will look at Revelation chapter 3 verses 14-22. In this chapter we are introduced to the church in Laodicea. Very rarely do we open our Bibles to the book of Revelation. We see it as being difficult to understand and read. I completely agree that the book of Revelation is difficult to understand. The one passage we study within this book happens to be the passage in the discussion of the week. Again I encourage you to go and read each passage for yourself.

## Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

In Revelation 2 and 3 we are introduced to seven churches. Each of which are encouraged or corrected for their efforts in serving God. The church in Laodicea is corrected due to its lukewarm behavior. The members are neither hot nor cold for Him. They "straddle the fence" so to speak. They can't decide whether they want to serve God 100% or if they want to jump the fence to the other side. Jesus says in this passage that he spews them out of his mouth.

Nobody wants to drink lukewarm coffee or milk. When you drink it you immediately regret it and may even spit it out. Jesus feels the same way about lukewarm Christians. Jesus wants you to make a commitment. He wants you to commit to one side or the other. When we make the choice to become a child of God and a follower of Christ, we cannot have a "one foot in-one foot out" attitude. We cannot hold the hand of God and the hand of the world at the same time. That isn't how Christianity works. We must be all in, or we might as well not be in at all.

### **Sunday's Sermons:**

**A.M. — Noah and Me: Chosen by God to Save the World, Genesis 6:1-8**

**P.M. — Defy or Defend, Daniel 4:28-30**

## HOW DO THEY SEE YOU?

Have you ever wondered how others view you? I know sometimes I see a picture of myself and I think, “Wow that camera must be messed up,” or “I think the camera adds 20 lbs. (ok so maybe it’s supposed to be 10).” I even have heard that how we view ourselves in a mirror is not the same as others view us. That’s kind of scary...can we really know what we look like? Before you think I am advocating some form of “visual agnosticism” ...hold on just a minute—I do have a point.

Whether we like it or not, we are seen by other people in ways rather than simply our physical looks. We are also figuratively seen by others in different ways based upon our actions and personality. When I was growing up on Virginia Avenue in Chester, I would help Steve Higginbotham with his paper route. Based upon how people acted Steve and I “saw them” a certain way. There was more than one house where the lady of the house was ugly...not because of her physical appearance...but because those ladies were mean. There were other parents in certain houses that seemed so kind (but I think for me at least I was always in a good mood to be at their house because I was “twitter pated” with a certain girl who might have lived in the house). There were others that we viewed as quite intelligent because we knew they were doctors etc.

I guess there is a possibility that every individual that we get to know on a certain level forms a “picture” of how they see us. I was quite honored on Saturday when the girls shared a couple of things that Jenna Leigh said while they were all on their trip together. First, as they were driving, Jenna saw a conversion van pass by and asked “Was that John?” I hope others know me in this way as well...as one who loves his old van but also loves to find humor in life and share that with others (you’d have to see my van dwelling videos to understand). Jenna knows I love my van and I am fine with that.

But I guess the second time that Jenna Leigh thought of me is what makes me most happy. Since Brenna and the girls were not in E-town, they worshipped at the congregation where my mother in law attends. When they got to the building, Jenna asked if I was going to be there to preach. How wonderful that such a young one associates me with being a preacher! I love it! I am sure that the “view” that others have of me may not be quite as encouraging as Jenna’s view of me. Some may think me rather annoying because they have seen my van dwelling videos. Others may think “You call that a preacher?” I don’t know, and I can’t control how everyone chooses to see me. All I can control is what I attempt to convey to others.

I do know the most important way that we all must hope for others to see us—that is as a reflection of Christ. We are to be a light to the world to bring glory to God. We are to follow the pattern Jesus has laid down for us and to be imitators of Him! We are to allow others to see Jesus through the lives we live and the examples we set. Hopefully as they see Jesus living in us, that will provide an opportunity for them to ask us about the reason for the hope that is in us!

*John F. Board  
Elizabethtown, KY*