



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to examine a concept from the book of Ecclesiastes. In the book of Ecclesiastes, the wise man (many believe to be Solomon) writes regarding life "under the Sun."

From my study, this term indicates life here upon the earth with an additional concept as well. The additional concept is life here upon the earth without consideration given to God. It is from this perspective that the text reveals the vanity of all things we do here upon the earth. Without God factored into our plans, indeed everything we do is vain.

James of course also touches upon this subject. James writes through inspiration that we need to include God in all of our plans. To plan without factoring God into those plans is dangerous indeed. Not only does a failure to factor God into our plans forget to take into consideration the brevity of life, it is also a failure to do something one knows is right to do (For him to know to do good (consider God) and does not do it, that alone is sin).

According to the wise man, how vain are the things we do under the sun? The Hebrew term is quite interesting. There are times it is translated as "vapor." When I read vapor I cannot but help to be pointed to the passages in James "What is your life? It is but a vapor that appears for a short time and vanishes away." Was James saying our life is truly empty unless we have God in it? That's something to think about for sure.

In Jer. 2:5 we read, "they followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves." Isn't it interesting that every man takes on to some degree the character and nature of the God he worships; idols are worthless therefore a man who chooses to worship them becomes worthless? On the other hand, God is...those who choose to worship Him have worth. Their lives have meaning! I hope this article stirred some thoughts in your mind. What is your life? Is it empty or filled with God?

jfb

The pressure to be cool and the pressure to fit in is about to be in full effect once again. As the new school year is about to get under way we start to think about things. We worry about the outfit we wear

on the first day back. How we look on the first day is detrimental to the rest of the year. At least that's how it is in the eyes of most teenagers. The human desire of wanting to fit in will most times trump our relationship with the people that matter. It can even corrupt our personalities to the point where we lose sight of the person we used to be and should be. We get so immersed in the idea of feeling important, we forget about what is really important. We focus on being cool and accepted, then our relationship with God takes a back seat. Why? The rest of society deems it uncool to worship God. Doing what everyone else does pulls us away from being sanctified.

Young people, as you go into this school year, where is your focus? Can you withstand the pressure of being like the world? Can you withstand the temptations that Satan has put in place for you? He tempts you with anything and everything that might cause you to wander into the world and away from God. The next time someone asks you to do something in order to fit in, ask yourself, "is it really worth it?" Can you withstand the immediate pleasure that ultimately leads to eternal pain and suffering? Can you endure the pain of not fitting in with the world in order to fit in with the heaven crowd? Are you looking to fit in the right crowds? There are more than the worldly crowds. Try fitting in with the brothers and sisters of Christ. This year will you withstand the temptation of being like the world?

*Mitchell's
Weekly
Manna*
Mitchell Lockhart

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — The Character Traits of a
Christian, Galatians 5:22-25**

**P.M. — A New School Year
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

It's About That Time

How would you finish the phrase, "it's about that time?" For some it might mean school is right around the corner. For others, it might mean football season is about to begin. Still yet for others, it might mean something much more serious. For some it might be about time for yearly check-up or about time to return to a cancer doctor for a follow-up visit or to see if the cancer has returned. For some it might be that message that it is time to "call the family in" because a loved one has little time left here upon the earth.

As we can see, the way we might choose to complete the phrase "it's about time..." could be quite varied. Of course the ways to complete the phrase above, for the most part, indicate something having to do with our physical lives. But what if we completed the phrase "it's about time" with something spiritual? Let's consider a few thoughts along those lines.

What if we said, "It's about time I studied my Bible more." So often we get caught up in the concerns of this world to such a point that we fail to take the time to grow spiritually. As newborn babes we were encouraged to feed upon the milk of the word that we might grow from it. Paul wrote through implication that people ought to study to show themselves approved of God. Jeremiah wrote, "Thy words were found and I did eat them and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart, for I am called by thy name oh Lord God of hosts" (Jer. 15:16). Could we say to ourselves, "It's about time I studied my Bible more?" Imagine how your faith would grow (Rom. 10:17).

What if we said, "It's about time I stop forsaking the assembling together for worship." How would your congregation's attendance look if you and all others were present every time the doors were open? I once heard of a man who said that he was just going to miss one Sunday. After being gone for a number of years he said, "That one Sunday turned into the next Sunday and soon it was simply too easy to stay away." I think most desire to be present at all assemblies but that takes so much effort to do so. Are we one of those people who need to say "It's about time I stop forsaking the assembling together for worship."

Perhaps you need to say, "It's about time I quit putting off obeying the Gospel." Many people think they have all the time in the world to make the decision to become a Christian. Others have some sin that keeps them from taking the necessary steps. I would venture to guess if we knew for certain the Lord was going to return in the next day or so, we would have nothing stopping us from obeying the Gospel. We would realize we do not have all the time in the world. That sin that we hold onto would not be appealing any longer. But here is the catch, we have no guarantee of tomorrow. How sad if we missed out on an eternity with God in heaven...do you need to say, "It's about time I quit putting off obeying the Gospel!"

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*