



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's Confidence Corner we are going to examine a great reason that we as Christians can have confidence in the Scriptures as the Word of God. For some Christians it is difficult to understand how people

could question whether the historical events of the Bible actually occurred or not. To most of us, we have been brought up believing... "If it is in the Bible, then it happened." Sadly though many in today's world question, not only the historical events of our VBS study, but also Creation, The Flood, The Red Sea Crossing, Jonah and the Great Fish, and the Resurrection of Jesus. For people who question we need to provide evidence that the Scriptures are indeed the Word of God.

Though many lines of evidence could be presented (unity of Scriptures, Biblical Prophecy, Scientific Foreknowledge, etc...) I want to share one particularly convincing argument. In the New Testament there are numerous examples of inspired men who believed the Scriptures to be from God (and as such authoritative). The greatest of the New Testament examples who accepted the Scriptures as the Word of God was Jesus.

Remember many of those accounts we noted earlier that people tend to think are not historical events? Remember Creation, the Flood, and even Jonah (the fish story as some call it). Jesus recognized and provided credibility to each of these historical events. In Matthew 19:1-6 we read of Jesus speaking of the beginning and noting that Adam and Eve were created at that time. In Matthew 12:39ff we read Jesus acknowledging the historical account of Jonah and the fish that God prepared. In Matthew 24:38ff Jesus references and provides credibility to the flood of Noah's day.

Often Jesus would employ the Scriptures to defeat the devil and the other religious enemies who were aids to the Devil in trying to defeat Jesus (Matthew 4; Mark 7:6). Why did He use the Scriptures? It stands to reason that Jesus recognized them as the authoritative words of God. The question we need to ask ourselves is "Do we?"

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Creation vs Evolution

To hear evolutionists tell it, millions of years of chance mutations, combined with natural selection, produced all manner of living creatures. Now, let's look at just one creature – the porcupine fish – and see how the theory of evolutionism works out in real life. If the theory fails the test, it's a strong indicator that the theory lacks the power to explain the existence of any living creature.

The porcupine fish is blessed with not one, not two, but three lines of defense. The first comes into play when a predator is near. The porcupine fish quickly swallows a large amount of water, practically doubling its size. This makes the fish too large for some predators to swallow.

The second line of defense comes into play as the fish transforms itself into a football-sized balloon covered with menacing barbs. Its scales stand on end, turning it into an aquatic version of the land-dwelling porcupine. The very sight of these sharp scales protruding in every direction scares off many predators.

The third line of defense for some porcupine fish species is the neurotoxin in their internal organs – a toxin that's at least twelve hundred times more potent than cyanide. As a result of these three defenses, porcupine fish have few predators.

Now, can evolutionists explain how this unique fish came to have these three lines of defense? No, they can't. There is no explanation found in the theory of evolutionism. Creation provides the answer in a God who designed the porcupine fish with the three defenses.

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — Grief
Isaiah 53:1-3

P.M. — It Is Well
Psalm 23

Things That Are Beneficial

Well I have decided it is that time again to really focus on my health. With the crazy summer schedule, two graduations, and one kid starting college, needless to say we have been living a hectic schedule. With that hectic schedule come sacrifices in our healthy choices. Food preparation takes time. Eating healthy takes planned effort. It is time to get back to my focus.

Another hope that I would have for improvement would be good spiritual health—drawing closer to God. Like the goal of improved physical health, enhancing our spiritual health will take individual discipline. When I begin to improve my physical health I almost always also focus on the spiritual health as well. It never seems to get as “out of shape” as my physical side, but nonetheless the Bible reveals bodily exercise profits some, but spiritual growth is far more important. I also always know, the scriptural effort I put into improving my spiritual health, will not return to me empty rewards—the blessings will be many.

To be sure, the effort to improve your spiritual health will be met with opposition. Satan loses when you draw closer to God and as a result he will make every effort to dissuade you from your spiritual goal. When one seeks to improve his or her physical health, oppositions abound. Days when you do not feel like going to the gym, or the cold days which make you think again about your planned run, all come way too easy. If we do not overcome these oppositions, our goals are not realized. Imagine when Satan has a vested interest in your soul, the efforts he will utilize to defeat your spiritual goals.

Well how may we accomplish the goal of greater spiritual health? As noted above, this goal will take individual discipline. Let me suggest a few thoughts from Scripture which also provide for us inspired information that may assist us in accomplishing our goals. First and foremost must be our effort to study God’s Word. Passages such as 1 Timothy 2:15 as well as Romans 10:17, though very familiar passages, contain many valuable truths. As noted in the passage that Paul penned to Timothy, study of God’s Word takes effort, but if we want to grow in our faith, and thus experience spiritual growth, we must spend time with the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

Secondly, consider how prayer is a vital component to spiritual growth. Without availing ourselves of the blessing of a great prayer life, we lose out on great potential spiritual growth. Luke 18:1 notes that we “ought always to pray and not to faint.” Paul wrote, “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Why would the Christian fail to pray when John writes, “And this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything, in accordance with His will, He heareth us” (1 John 5:14)?

Finally, think how the last way to help us grow spiritually, that we will mention, naturally follows from the other two. If we are involved in study of the Scripture and are praying as we should, imagine how much we would desire to be present for every opportunity to worship our God. Not only will we grow from the experience as we worship our great God Who has blessed us immeasurably, we will also come in contact with others who desire the same goals for their lives. Who knows who you might encourage as you are encouraged by God and others (Hebrews 10:24-25)?

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