



# The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ

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## Confidence Corner

The time of death is often a challenging time for a child of God. Though we know from a physical standpoint death is the consequence of man's choice to sin (Genesis 3), the hurt we endure when a loved one dies seems at

times almost unbearable. Did God foresee this future need of mankind, His creation?

In Galatians 6:1-5, Paul describes a way that God has provided to help ease the pain of all types of difficulties a Christian may face in this life. In Galatians 6:1-5, we read how we are to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. Paul, through inspiration, is describing a support system that God has put in place for the Christian. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are such a blessing to each Christian. Christians can help ease the burden placed upon their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Notice though that just a few verses later the passage reads, "Each man shall bear his own burden." Critics of the Bible feel they have found a contradiction in Scripture just a few verses apart and thus discredited all of Scripture. Have the critics discovered something that has fooled man for almost 2000 years? Not at all! The "burdens" of Galatians 6:2 is the idea of "common afflictions." The burden of Galatians 6:5 is each ones' personal responsibility.

Apply this understanding to dealing with the death of a loved one. The Christian has many individuals who can help them bear the burden or affliction that comes in the time of death. But in the real work of grief (from the original word meaning "heavy") each person must "bear" or work through their individual grief.

Please remember that grief does not only come after death. Many situations in life can bring grief. It does not have to be physical death. Many burdens we bear, though not physical death, are figurative--as if someone or something has died. Lean on your brethren...and brethren...look to help those dealing with the common afflictions of life.

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Read the following paragraph and see if you can find the name of sixteen books of the Bible that are hidden in the text:

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. YES, THERE WILL BE SOME REALLY EASY ONES TO SPOT. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. One little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there are really sixteen names of books of the Bible in this story.

### Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — WHO IS JESUS?**

**MATTHEW 21:9-11**

**P. M. — DECLARING A DEFENSE**

**2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6**

## Who Will Win?

As I write this article on the day when college football will crown their national champion, I wonder who will win the game. If you are a fan of either team you are probably either confident or hopeful that you will be happy as the game ends. Some may be worried or nervous. I guess no matter how a fan approaches the game...they can never be sure of the outcome.

How much energy is expended on something that ultimately one cannot know? Ohio State looked like they would blow out Clemson. Dabo looked puzzled and almost sick through the early parts of the game. Yet Clemson won a close hard-fought game. LSU fans did not have to have much anxiety as they took control of their game against Oklahoma.

In the NFL, the San Francisco Forty-Niners told commentators they were confident. For a few commentators, such confidence brought concern but the Forty-Niners prevailed in a 17-point win over the Vikings. Baltimore was perhaps the best team coming into the postseason. Lamar Jackson had set remarkable statistics the entire season. He appeared to be unstoppable. But as I have heard often, "That is why they play the game." The Tennessee Titans dominated the Ravens. The Packers beat Seattle to advance to the NFC title game against the Forty-Niners. But in what is being termed a breakdown of immense measure, the Houston Texans blew a 24-0 lead partway into the second quarter. Before the clock expired in the first half, the KC Chiefs went to the locker room with a 28-24 lead.

Why do I write all of the above? Is it to say it is foolish to watch football? No, that is not my point. Football in and of itself is neutral. Perhaps our emotions and other elements are something to be kept in check, but football is neither good nor bad. But here is my point! How much thought and energy is given to something that we have no idea about the outcome? Any fan knows the sick feeling as well as the lack of production the day following a big loss. You see though, of the most important thing to any human, eternal life, we can know the outcome.

What a contrast between sports and eternal life! Sports are temporary and only provide happiness as long as your team is winning. Regarding our eternal life with God in heaven, not only can we have peace and joy every day we live here upon the earth, the joy we have because of eternal life, will last for all eternity. Read the following passages: 1 John 2:25; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Revelation 3:5; 1 John 5:13-14; Revelation 2:10; Revelation 14:13; 2 Timothy 4:6ff. All of these passages as well as many others provide God's promise that when we come to the end of this life, we can all be victorious through the justifying work of Jesus our Savior.

Ok, so I have no idea who will win the Big Game tonight...but I do know that because of Christ, I will win in the greatest battle of all—the battle for my soul. Do you have the confidence that your soul will be saved? If not, why not seek the answer in God's Word!

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