



# The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ

Vol. XXXXVI

February 2, 2020

No. 4

## Confidence Corner

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I want us to think about the term "almighty". The term as it is used in Scripture has the meanings of "all solvereign", "controlling all things." As a divine designation, it occurs both as an adjective and as a noun. Found relatively rarely in pagan literature, it is used frequently for God in the Greek translation of the OT (LXX).

There are 180 times that the word translated from the LXX as "almighty" is found. The same Greek word is used in the Revelation of John, which refers to God as "Almighty" 9 times. Paul also uses the word in 2 Cor. 6:18 as he quotes from the OT.

So how does one explain that though the term "almighty" is rarely used by pagans to refer to their gods, it is used extensively of the God of the Hebrews? I have to wonder if such is not the case because the God of the Hebrews left no question as to the fact that He was and is "Almighty!"

Other deities of other nations really never provided proof that they were powerful. There is little evidence that these "little g" gods had much power at all. It is obvious from the writings of the people of the ANE that their gods were not often referred to as almighty.

The God of the Hebrews, YHWH, left such an impression upon His people that they over 180 times referred to Him as "Almighty." What can we make of all of this information? My thought would be that we serve that same God—a God Who is Almighty! It would do us well to remember this fact daily.

jfb



## DEACON WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 22, 2020

9:00am to 3:00pm

Elizabethtown Church of Christ

With

## Aubrey Johnson

This powerful workshop is designed to encourage deacons to be effective at their roles and assignments in the church. It is also useful for non-deacon/servants wanting to be more effective in their church work.

\*lunch will be provided

Please RSVP to 270-765-6446 by February 15, 2020

### Sunday's Sermons:

A. M. — DEVOTION OR BETRAYAL

MARK 14:3-11

P. M. — FACTS ABOUT SIN

ROMANS 6:1-4

## A Good Reminder on Marriage

As I began to think about a couple upcoming marriages in the congregation (Grant and Amber and Will and Lauren) I was reminded of some important thoughts regarding marriage. Though God intended for it to be a wonderfully blessed relationship, Satan tries to use his influence to destroy what God intends to be beautiful.

Have you ever wondered why relationships are not always easy? Even our relationships in the family are often strained. In the best of marriages, we get angry with our spouses and children. Children get frustrated with their parents. If God had that plan for man to be complete and happy in marriage, why is this the case?

Early Christian writers consistently affirm that God created the entire world good as well as the fact that family relationships are intrinsic to creation principles. Unless humans possess the rare gift of singleness, men and women are expected to marry (Matt 19:12; 1 Cor 7:2–7). Except for loyalty to God, the marriage relationship is to be unrivaled in intimacy and mutual commitment (Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5–6; Eph 5:31). Fundamental to this expectation within the created order is the responsibility of parents to bear and to care for children—feeding them, clothing them, disciplining them, instructing them, and ultimately blessing them as they leave to form their own families (Matt 7:9–11; 1 Tim 5:8–14). Adult children live with an obligation to care for ill or aging parents (1 Tim 5:4).

Early Christian writers also consistently affirmed the brokenness of the world in which we live. Due to the rebellion of Adam and Eve, all creation groans beneath the weight of sin (Gen 3:1–24; Rom 8:20–22). Sometimes, people talk about coming from “dysfunctional families.” The reality is that, because of sin, we are all “dysfunctional” at the deepest level. Disharmony in family relationships is a sign of our fallen state. Children are frustrated and disobedient (Mark 13:12; 1 Tim 1:9; 2 Tim 3:2). Parents are harsh, neglectful, even evil (Isa 49:15; Col 3:21; 1 Tim 5:8)—all because our world is broken.

Because sin has entered our world, family members do not do naturally what they ought to do. Members of Christian families must be instructed and trained in their obligations to one another. Husbands and wives must be reminded to love their spouses and children in ways pleasing to Christ (Eph 5:22–33; Titus 2:4). Before the world was impacted by sin, such obligations would have been natural and spontaneous; now, such God-honoring behavior is impossible apart from the teaching God provides through His Word. Yes, children *are* a wonderful blessing from the Lord! (Ps 127:3–5). Yet anyone who has spent any time with children must also agree that these blessings can sometimes be a challenge.

So, to summarize, God provided all that man needed to have perfect marital bliss within the marriage relationship. Prior to man’s choice to sin, the marriage relationship was blissful. But after man chose to sin, even a part of the consequence of that sin seems to be that the husband and wife would have conflict. Though such comes naturally, God has still, though mankind messed up, provided a way to make our marriage and family the best it can possibly be—read His Word that provides the instructions we need!

John F Board

Elizabethtown, KY