

The Caller

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Confidence Comer John F. Board

In this week's Confidence Corner, we want to consider God's creative power. I was teasing with Brenna and the girls the other day. I sang "God made the big round sun..." and then said, "And I can actually finally see it." All of God's

creation is truly amazing. Such is not surprising since the all-powerful God made it! Consider the following information from the Answers in Genesis webpage.

The sun (like other stars) is a glowing hot ball of hydrogen gas. The sun is effectively a stable hydrogen bomb. It is an extremely efficient source of energy, placed at just the right distance to provide the right amount of light and heat for the earth.

The sun is about 400 times more distant than the moon. Remarkably, it is also 400 times larger. So it has the same angular size as the moon—meaning it appears the same size and covers the same portion of the sky. It is interesting that God made both of the "great lights" the same angular size—and far larger (in angle) than any of the other celestial objects. There is no naturalistic reason why the sun and moon would be at just the right distances to have the same apparent size as seen from earth. As far as we know, the earth is the only planet for which this is the case.

The sun is over 100 times the diameter of the earth. If it were hollow, it could hold over 1 million earths. At first, it seems almost "wasteful" to create such a massive globe merely to provide light for earth: until we consider that God created the sun just as easily as the rest of the universe. It wasn't at all difficult for Him (Jeremiah 32:17) and it demonstrates His great power. At the incredible distance of 93 million miles (150 million km), we cannot fully appreciate just how far away the sun is. An analogy may be helpful. How long would it take to drive 93 million miles? If we were to drive 65 miles per hour (105 km/hr), it would take 163 years to drive this distance. We couldn't drive this far in our lifetime (answersingenesis.org).

If the sun is so amazing, what does that say about our God? Yes, GOD made the big round sun! We as humans cannot begin to fathom how, but we can be caused to stand in awe at the thought of our God! We as Christians can often times be similar to a battery. When we first become a Christian we run strong and have the energy to power a multitude with simply our attitude. There are other times when our energy levels are running low. Most of the time all we need is a quick charge to get us back in

Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

the game. Other times we may need a slow charge, and there are also times when our physical bodies deteriorate and die and need to be replaced with a heavenly body.

When we first became a Christian we easily had the strength and desire to serve God and act like His child. What do we do when that feeling gets burned out? Somedays we may just want to discard our "Christian batteries" (can also be referred to as our Christian light) when things do not seem as exciting as they used to be or when being a Christian is difficult. We may even turn our backs on what we fell in love with (being a child of God).

The quick and easy fix to low energy levels in our battery compartment is to get a quick charge. We can be charged quickly and easily by going on weekend trips like Evangelism University, CYC, or even retreats. Maybe you get that spiritual charge from doing things like fishing, playing a sport, or spending time with family and friends. Though that might get you back into the action easier and faster, it may not be the best thing for you.

Sometimes recharging our batteries quickly leads to them running down just as quick. Often times we get so conditioned to the feeling of a quick charge we don't look for a long term repair. Holding a spiritual charge can often be done by a simple but a more constant option. Committing to reading your Bible and praying every day can help us hold our charge even after we have had a fast recharge. Involving yourself in the community as an influence through service projects, or just carrying yourself in a Christ-like manner could also recharge you. Your charge can also be held for a longer period of time simply by meditating not only on scripture, but the joys of being a Christian.

One day those who kept their batteries going and going, or their light burning will be able to exchange their old worn out batteries for brand new ones that will never die or lose power. How are you keeping your batteries charged?

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — Morality: Says Who? Proverbs 14:9-12

P.M. — Hosea Hosea 1:1-2

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GOSPEL MEETINGS?

I guess I am being somewhat facetious with the title of my article this week. Most of us are aware that we still schedule Gospel Meetings in both the Spring and Fall. This year our meeting is with Paul Holland from Michigan. Our meeting runs Sunday through Wednesday, April 14-17, 2019. Those who attend will be blessed immeasurably.

When I was a single man and attending services at the Virginia Avenue Church of Christ in Chester, WV, we would have several excellent Gospel Meeting speakers. I also would attend area meetings. I would finish work at the factory and get in my car and drive sometimes up to 2 hours one way. I still love Gospel Meetings. Sometimes as we grow older our responsibilities change and we cannot go every evening to an area meeting. Yet still if we can attend other congregations' meetings we will be blessed.

I am thankful our elders continue to schedule Gospel Meetings here at Elizabethtown. We have excellent speakers and grow each time the elders provide these opportunities. Though we cannot often attend more than one night of an area meeting, my hope is that we would fully support our own meeting efforts.

Attendance is the best way to support the meeting. Inviting neighbors and friends is another. Praying for the success of the message that will be presented as well as praying for Brother Holland are also important. I for one hope to take full advantage of the opportunities the elders have planned for us as a congregation.

There are also other area Gospel Meetings in the near future. Bart Warren recently sent a letter and flyer regarding the South Green Street Church of Christ's meeting to be held March 17-20. The speaker will be Neal Pollard. He is the preacher for the Bear Valley church of Christ. Not only is brother Pollard sound in the faith, he is an excellent speaker as well.

George Jensen also sent an announcement about the upcoming meeting at Hawesville, Ky. This meeting runs March 21-24 and the flyer is up on the bulletin board. The speaker is Terrance Brownlow-Dindy who is the minister for the Sixth Street church of Christ in Lakeland, Florida. George and Joy know him well and have shared with me what an excellent preacher Terrance is.

So, what ever happened to Gospel Meetings? In many places they are still being held a few times a year to encourage Christians and evangelize communities. I hope you are willing to take advantage of the opportunities for growth provided by these wonderful congregations.

John F. Board Elizabethtown, KY