



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
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Confidence Corner John F. Board

For the past few weeks in ladies class we have been highlighting different elements regarding our Awesome God. One of the items that we considered was how impossible it is to separate God and His Word. In this week's *Confidence Corner* I would like to build on this principle.

The authority of Scripture is the great presupposition of the whole of biblical doctrine. This appears most clearly in the way the New Testament speaks about the Old Testament. The words that appear in the Old Testament are described in the New Testament with formulas like "God says," "the Holy Spirit says," and so on (Acts 3:24, 25; 2 Cor. 6:16; Acts 1:16). What "the Scripture says" and what "God says" is the same thing.

It was not 'Scripture' that spoke to Pharaoh (Rom. 9:17), or that revealed His great promise to Abraham (Gal. 3:8), but God. But 'Scripture' and 'God' lay so close together in the minds of the writers of the New Testament that they could naturally speak of 'Scripture' doing what Scripture records God as doing. Such naturally implies *authority*. "It is written" in the New Testament, puts an end to all debate.

So again, we must be impressed with the knowledge that what we know as the Bible is not simply a mere book, it is the words of the Almighty God. God chose to reveal His will to mankind. What an awesome concept. Ponder on this thought and let it sink in if you will.

jfb

In Daniel 3 we read of a group of men by the name of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. I always refer to them by their Israelite names, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael. The King of Babylon, who, by the will of God, had taken control of the children of Israel, had an image made. Every time the trumpet sounded everyone was to turn to the image and bow down before it. Every knee bowed before the golden image (which was most likely of the king) except for the knees that belonged to Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael.

The sad part about it was that even people who claimed to be the anointed children of God bowed down before the image. Why? The punishment for not bowing down at the commanded time was to be thrown into the fiery furnace. Of course, we see that the disobedient men were thrown into the furnace, which was made 7x hotter than the customary temperature. The King looked in to see if they were burning as they should be. When he did he saw that there were four men in the furnace instead of three. There was also no harm that came to them. One of the four men in the furnace was said to look like an angel of the Lord. It is said that it was in fact Christ himself who was there.

The instance in Daniel 3 and the Day of Judgement will be quite similar. When Jesus comes again the trumpet will sound and EVERY knee shall bow. There will be no one challenging the authority of God on that day. There will be those there who rejected the gospel, those who claimed to know the gospel, and those who confessed the gospel and lived it. We who have put on Christ will be unscathed by the eternal fiery furnace. We will also be rewarded for choosing to obey God over sparing our own lives. What about you?

Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Craig's Request
1 Corinthians 13:8-13**

**P.M. — Joel
Joel 2:28-32**

