



The Caller

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

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we will examine some thoughts regarding the distinctive nature of the New Testament Church. Too often these

fundamental teachings are overlooked and the result is confusion in new members and the younger generation. I hope these brief thoughts will provide some clarity.

In Daniel 2, Isaiah 2, and Joel 2 we have the opportunity to see the prophets of old referring to something special that was to come. They could know about this "Kingdom" that would never be destroyed because the God who intended this Kingdom (the Church) before the foundation of the world (Acts 2:23; Ephesians 1:3ff) was the God who was guiding the hands of those who wrote these words hundreds of years before this coming Kingdom would come to fruition.

Jesus Christ promised that He would build His Church (Kingdom) upon the confession that He was the Son of God (Matt. 16:13ff). When we compare Mark 9:1, Acts 1:8, and Acts 2 we see that His Kingdom came on Pentecost. Later, Paul would write about the Church, and he would declare that Christ was the head of the body, the Church (Col. 1:18). He also penned to those at Ephesus that there is "one body" (Eph. 4:1ff). The Church was so important that Luke records Paul's words that Christ purchased the Church with His Own blood."

All of the above indicates that God intended the Church to be very distinct. It is important that we understand this principle. We will continue some thoughts regarding this important concept Lord willing, next week.

jfb

I want to be honest with you, brutally honest. It's really a shame the way some people treat other people. I'm sure you've experienced this in your own life but people can be downright mean, nasty, and cruel. The world is especially this way towards Christians. There was only one person to ever live a perfect life and the world hated Him, had Him brutally tortured, and murdered Him on a cross. In my reading, I stumbled upon a passage that really spoke to me about how Christians should react to this.

Kurt's Kolum **Kurt Montooth**

1 Peter 3:8-9 says, "8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing." Peter says when the world hates you and treats you wrong, don't respond in kind, but respond with love. When you are hated love, when you are cursed bless, when a person becomes your enemy pray for them. Peter says, "to this you were called..." What this means is that if you are a Christian, the responsibility God has given you is to love those who mistreat you. This is VERY difficult for us "normal folk" but through the power of God it's possible. Peter promises that even though the world may curse us, God will reward us for our faithfulness to Him. It will not always be fun, easy, or enjoyable but it will ALWAYS be worth it. Let's do our best to follow the example our Saviour set.

Sunday's Sermons:

***A.M. — God's Grace is Greater
Romans 5:6-8***

P.M. — 5th Sunday Night Singing

WHERE WILL YOU LIVE?

In the past few years I have had a lot of fun teasing Brenna about how we are going to van dwell. My videos on Facebook have provided me a wide fan base. I've been at FHU only to have people stop me and tell me how much they love my van dwelling videos. I have had visitors come out after services and say "nice sermon...and oh by the way I love your van dwelling videos." Then of course there are those who ask me when I am going to quit making those videos. But most of all, Brenna, though she is a good sport, finds little humor in the idea of selling the house and moving into our conversion van.

Don't get me wrong...it is not that Brenna is materialistic and would never live in less than ideal conditions. You see when we were first married and moved to Yreka, California, I know a young bride of only a few months who was willing to live in the bedroom of a member's house, then the church building (where we would have to travel to a member's house to shower), then in a Class A motor home. My point is, Brenna never complained in these situations. Something may not be ideal, but I am blessed to know I have a wife who, if push comes to shove, is a real trooper.

Why did I write all of this thus far? Well maybe because I have been thinking about how we really do not know what life will bring our way. In the past 6 months we, as a family, have been made aware that we simply don't always know how things are going to work out. We have had our share of sorrows, but we have also experienced unexpected joys during this time as well. We have seen Brenna's father (and mother) have to deal with one thing after another. We have watched those with various diseases live with the diseases and found that some who we did not know had any health issues at all could die instantly.

Well, here is my point! We do not know what is ahead for us here on the earth. Will we have a long life? Will death come instantly? Will we deal with a fight for our life for an extended period? Will the Lord return today? None of us know!

But here is the good news...we can know where we will spend eternity! John wrote to Christians to tell them that they could know they would have eternal life (I Jn 5:13). Christians were of course those who had been baptized for the remission of their sins based upon a faith that Jesus is the Son of God, a willingness to repent of sin, and a willingness to confess Jesus as Lord. For those who have done so and strive to walk in the light (I Jn 1:7), there is a confidence that no matter what happens in the here and now, in eternity we will be at home with God! Are you prepared to meet the Lord?

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*