



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ

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Confidence Corner

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to consider just a few thoughts regarding one of the names of the God of the Hebrew Bible. This name is often referred to as Jehovah but more likely the

closest we might come to it in English is Yahweh. The reason we are not certain regarding this name is due to the fact that the original Hebrew text only had consonants. Thus the name first appears as yod he vav he or as we write "YHWH."

YHWH occurs over 6000 times in the Old Testament. To think we could ever fully understand the depth of this name is absurd. By studying some texts where the name appears would provide a good understanding but because of the nature of YHWH, we can never fully grasp an understanding of Him. We are not certain even of the pronunciation of the word given that the Jews believed the name of God was too holy to be spoken (Dt. 28:58). So as not to come close to violating Ex. 20:7 as well as Lev. 24:16, they employed the practice of saying "adonai" (or English "LORD") when approaching YHWH in the text of Scripture.

But I guess one thing we need to note is this is the name by which God identified Himself (Ex.3:14-15; 6:3). The name is associated with eternal existence so much so that it seems to suggest that the timelessness of God is a very foundation of His existence. Jesus uses this concept to convey that He is God in human flesh in John 8:58. John describes Jesus as "the One Who is, Who was, and Who is to be." Again John is implying the deity of Jesus through His eternal nature.

Why write all of this? Well because it is simply another indication that we serve the eternal God even today. When we consider the way in which God chose to be identified, YHWH provides much comfort for us even today.

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Unfortunately will not be happening this year, but we will look forward to making **2021** a great success! We dedicate this column to our High School Seniors **Bradley Lackey** and **Alli Moss** as this would have been their last year as campers.



Sunday's Sermon on Facebook Live

10:30am

A.M. — HOW IS YOUR FAITH

ROMANS 10:17

2020 VISION

Well, we thought we could see clearly a plan for Big Reedy 2020, but sadly we have realized there will be no Big Reedy Camp this year. Don't worry; there are already plans ahead for 2021. Of course, we must add that even these plans are as the Lord wills. Terry mentioned to me a few weeks back the importance of realizing keeping God in our plans when we make plans (James 4:13ff).

There is no way around it! I am sad. Terry is sad. All the staff is sad. I'm sure many campers are sad as well. Big Reedy is a bright spot each year. To miss out on the recharge we receive from a week of camp is no fun at all. Yet we are learning that Big Reedy is simply one of many sacrifices being made to battle the Covid-19, also known as the coronavirus.

2020 is definitely not unfolding, as I had hoped. Who would have believed that school would be "out for the summer" by March? Who would have thought that their senior year or sports season would not occur? So many dreams and anticipated plans will not take place.

This reminds us though to take seriously the teaching of James 4:13ff. It teaches us to recognize we need to rejoice in each day God gives us to enjoy—each day He gives us the breath of life. Not only are we not guaranteed to make it through the day, but also we also never know the day or the hour the Son of Man will return. Such a thought should make us think soberly. Such a thought should help us to redeem the time!

Perhaps most important, these uncertain times should teach us what is most important—serving God! Sport, as fun as they can be, are really only games. Life events that we make out to be essential are found to be not as essential as we once thought. Don't get me wrong. My heart hurts for many who had great plans but will never experience the things they always thought would be "times to remember."

One thing is for sure. 2020 will be a time and a year that we will not soon forget. Will our lives be forever different than they were prior to the coronavirus or will we return to normal? Only time will tell, but for generations to come, we will tell our children and our grandchildren of a time when churches met online and much of the world stood still. Who could have seen it coming? Well, I know of ONE-God!

John F Board
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