



# 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 want to consider if there is anything wrong with what we commonly call astrology. For those who do not know astrology is where people

consult the stars to seek to know what is going to happen in their lives. All of the following are often associated with astrology: daily horoscopes, online tarot readings, psychic readings, Chinese astrology, Vedic Astrology, Mayan Astrology, Numerology, and Feng Shui.

I think it was in the 1980s (or close to that time period) where lawyers in Florida tried to get their client off because they claimed that the stars lined up in such a way that their client was compelled to commit an unspeakable crime against a woman. Fortunately the jury did not buy the defense, which came to be known as the "astrology defense."

So what is wrong with astrology? The answer is that astrology strikes at one of the greatest gifts God has provided to mankind—free will. You see, the stars, some psychic, nor anything else determines our "fate." We have free will and we make our own choices that determine what happens to us. Even God Himself, who would have the power to control us if He so chooses, allows us free will. Of course, Satan will do everything he can to get us to go against God and His will, yet we still are not overwhelmed by Satan (no Geraldine the devil does not make us do it...see 1 Cor 10:13). But God does not overwhelm our free will when Satan tempts us to keep us from sinning...He simply provides a means of escape.

In addition astrology strikes at the very heart of what God intends for His children—complete trust in Him. "Trust in the LORD and lean not on thine own understanding. In all of thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

jfb

# Jesus

.....  
THE SAVIOR  
OF THE WORLD  
.....

John 4:42

## Sunday's Sermons:

**AM — THE DEATH OF CHRIST**

**TITUS 2:13-14**

**PM — MOSES**

**HEBREWS 11:24-26**

# Psalm 1

Because they reflect the deepest personal experiences of men of all ages, the Psalms are the most widely read and most deeply appreciated of all the Old Testament literature. They possess an unique tone that is not to be found in just quite such a way anywhere else in the Hebrew Bible. Even many who know little regarding Scripture know, or at least have read, the 23rd psalm. Psalm 1 offers an interesting object of study for various reasons, including the fact that it is the first psalm penned in this book of 150 who are said to "... perish in the way." Perhaps caution is urged in trying to find too many elements of comparison that are based on man's wisdom, but these are noted for one to do further study.

Some Bible students have noted the connection between the two ways of the Savior in Mt. 7:13, 14, and the two ways described here in such vivid contrast. It is not demonstrable that Jesus was thinking about this passage since the same general concept may be widely observed in the Old Testament literature, especially the Psalter and Proverbs; yet it is certain that this is the general backdrop of our Lord's thought.

Whether or not Psalm 1 was placed at the beginning of the book as a preface, it is certainly not too much to suggest that it could have been composed for such a purpose. Psalm 1 paints in broad but beautiful strokes, a picture of human life. Such life either honors God and His law or comes to despise him. The theme expressed in seed thought here is reiterated throughout the book of Psalms. The truly blessed life is closely connected with honoring God. To really believe this is to give our attention to the cultivation of personal relationship with God.



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