



The Caller

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Confidence

Corner

John F. Board

In this week's Confidence Corner we want to look at the principle found in an Old Testament passage. Remember though we do not carry the practices of the Old Testament forward today, there are many principles that do apply for our learning (Romans 15:4). The passage we want to look at this day is found in Psalm 45:7. The passage reads, "You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness." You may say, "John I thought we are not to hate." Well, allow us to consider a few things together.

Many have misunderstood the multifaceted Hebrew terms *ahave* (love) and *sane* (hate). Even in the New Testament, we are told to "be angry and sin not." Being angry in and of itself is not sinning! Jesus practiced a proper form of anger that we term righteous indignation. It is the concept we see the Psalmist extolling in the latter verses of Psalm 139. There can hardly be goodness in a person if they are not angered by sin.

Jesus hated Satan's attempts to get Him to turn away from His Father. Jesus hates what sin does to mankind. You see it is a mix of such an amazing love for mankind and such a despise of sin that resulted in Jesus coming into the world (John 3:16).

Jesus bled and died because He hated sin! Jesus allowed His life to be taken and to be placed in a tomb for three days because He hated all aspects of sin. Jesus arose from the dead to overcome the power Satan held over mankind with sin. Jesus ascended to be in heaven so that He could be at God's right hand as our high priest to defeat the sin He so hated.

It is in our hearts that the war is waged between Satan and Christ. Satan seeks to pull us away from God and into sin. I hate Satan and sin for what they have done to mankind. God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit all hated sin so much they provided the cure. The Gospel is the answer for today's world. Not only will it rid the world of hate, but it will also bring eternal life to those once in a world of sin.

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BE \ / BUT DON'T
Angry SIN IN
AT SIN Anger

BECAUSE

SIN

is breaking God's Law.

Sunday's Sermons:

AM — THE CHRIST OF HEBREWS

HEBREWS 1:1-2

PM — ELIJAH

1 KINGS 17:1

More Than Half Way Through the Year

Can you believe we are already halfway through 2020? With all the challenges, 2020 has brought many wishes that it was entirely over. Think back to the beginning of the year when you may have set those goals to improve your life in 2020. Since the year is more than half-past, we need to see how we are coming along with our goals.

As usual, weight loss and health were the top two New Year's Resolutions made by Americans in 2020. Some individuals have lofty goals (one person noted they wanted to lose 100lbs), and others felt it was time to take their health a little more seriously. Bettering our physical health is indeed a worthy goal, and I hope that you are progressing if that has been your goal this year.

Another hope that I always have for others in the New Year would be that they might experience good spiritual health—drawing closer to God. Like the goal of improved physical health, enhancing our spiritual health will take individual discipline. But rest assured, the scriptural effort you put into developing your spiritual health will not return you empty rewards—the blessings will be many.

To be sure, you will face opposition when you seek to improve your spiritual health. Satan loses when you draw closer to God, and as a result, he will make every effort to dissuade you from your spiritual goal. When one seeks to improve his or her physical health, oppositions abound. Days when you do not feel like going to the gym, or the cold days which make you think again about your planned run, all come way too easy. We will not meet our goals if we do not overcome these oppositions. Imagine when Satan has a vested interest in your soul, the efforts he will utilize to defeat your spiritual goals.

Well, how may we accomplish the goal of more excellent spiritual health? As noted above, this goal will take individual discipline. Let me suggest a few thoughts from Scripture, which also provide for us inspired information that may assist us in accomplishing our goals.

First and foremost must be our effort to study God's Word. Passages such as 1 Timothy 2:15 as well as Romans 10:17, though very familiar passages contain many valuable truths. As noted in the 1 Timothy 2:15, a study of God's Word takes effort, but if we want to grow in our faith, and thus experience spiritual growth, we must spend time with the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

Secondly, consider how prayer is a vital component of spiritual growth. Without availing ourselves of the blessing of a great prayer life, we lose out on significant potential spiritual growth. Luke 18:1 notes that we "ought always to pray and not to faint." Paul wrote, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Why would the Christian fail to pray when John writes, "And this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything, in accordance with His will, He heareth us" (1 John 5:14).

Finally, think about how the last way to help us grow spiritually, that we will mention, naturally follows from the other two. If we are involved in the study of Scripture and are praying as we should imagine how much we would desire to be present for every opportunity to worship our God. Not only will we grow from the experience as we worship our Great God who has blessed us immeasurably, we will also come in contact with others who desire the same goals for their lives. Who knows who you might help as you are encouraged by God and others (Hebrews 10:24-25).

John F Board

Elizabethtown, KY