



The Caller

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**Confidence
Corner
John F. Board**

In this week's *Confidence Corner*, we want to focus on our need not to forget what is first and foremost in our efforts to teach others. Though we often take time in this section of *The Caller* to provide a defense for what we believe, and this is necessary, we would never want to forget the power found in the central message of the Gospel of Christ. We will continue in the coming weeks to give a defense for the Faith, but for this week, I want us to consider the power in the Gospel.

Although apologetics is a valuable tool in evangelism—a vital tool at times—the Gospel of Christ is what people must ultimately hear to have access to salvation (Rom. 1:16). It is wrong to assume that every unbeliever harbors intellectual objections to Christianity. For this reason, not every teaching situation will require an apologetics defense.

Always try to start a teaching encounter with the Gospel. If the unbeliever responds to the Gospel, most likely apologetics does not need to be the focus. Instead, teach them what they already accept—God's Word. It is not always possible to start with the Gospel because many do not accept God's Word as the standard of our final judgment.

The goal of apologetics is to pave the way for a presentation of the Gospel. In this sense, apologetics is "pre-evangelism." It identifies and removes intellectual obstacles that hinder someone from considering the gospel message.

So again, *Confidence Corner*, as an apologetic based column, plays a vital role in teaching. Let us remember, though, the ultimate goal of all apologetics is to lead individuals to an acceptance of Jesus Christ and the saving power of his Gospel.

jfb

It is not possible for
a person to sin
habitually and
continually as a
lifestyle and still be a
believer.

(1 John 3:8-9)

As Christians, we do
stumble, but we do
not live a lifestyle of
continual,
unrepentant sin.

Sunday's Sermons:

AM — SIN PART I

ROMANS 6:22-23

PM — SIN PART II

1 John 3:4

MOSES AND US

When the LORD appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He told Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to "Let my people go," Moses devised a series of excuses that he believed disqualified him as God's choice. Moses acted as if perhaps God had made a mistake in judgment!

Moses' many excuses were as follows: First, Moses offered the excuse of inadequacy when he said, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" (Ex. 3:11). When the LORD answered that excuse Moses offered his second excuse—that of ignorance "If I come to the people of Israel ... and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" (Ex. 3:13). When the LORD answered again, Moses said that the thing he was asked to do was too incredible--"But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The LORD did not appear to you' " (Ex. 4:1). When the LORD answered that excuse, Moses noted his inability to speak--"Oh, my LORD, I am not eloquent ... I am slow of speech and of tongue" (Ex. 4:10). Finally, Moses gets to his last excuse and he reveals what the real problem is... insubordination: "Oh, my LORD, send, I pray, some other person" (Ex. 4:13). Moses wanted the LORD to send anyone but him!

In all of his excuses, Moses was thinking in terms of what he can do as a human. He failed to consider what the LORD can do. It matters not who the servant is or what that servant's abilities might be if a deity is present. Ex. 3:12 is the LORD's answer to the first of many excuses Moses will offer in an attempt to avoid the mission the LORD has chosen for him. To answer Moses' first excuse, the LORD promises, "I will be with you." That was all the answer Moses should have needed.

Nevertheless, wait a minute, why are we so hard on Moses? Doesn't the Lord promise us that if we will take his Gospel to all nations that He will be with us? Yet, how often do we offer excuses as to why we do not share the Gospel? You see we are not so different from Moses. The question becomes, will we finally go into the world with the Gospel and, like Moses, find out just how the LORD's presence with us will bless our efforts? I pray we all will have the faith to trust the Lord and do His will.

John F Board

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