



# The Caller

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## Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to examine what Scripture teaches is the pinnacle of God's Creation. Genesis 1 concludes with the creation of mankind. The whole chapter moves toward people as the pinnacle of God's creative activity.

Anyone who has read Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, has heard about natural selection and the survival of the fittest. If Darwin's philosophy is followed to its end it would show that on a scale of strict quantity, the pinnacle of living things is bacteria, the most tenacious and widely spread class of living organisms. Nice thought, isn't it—bacteria as the pinnacle of creation!

There is quite a contrast in Scripture—Genesis 1 reveals mankind to be God's pinnacle of his creative work. It is for man, male and female, that God shapes, forms, and fills the earth. According to Genesis 1:26–27, God crowns his creation with a very special creature:

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Mankind, then, is distinguished from all of the rest of creation. Men and women are unique because we are created to rule over the rest of God's world. Like a monarch of ancient days who established vassal kings beneath himself to rule over his kingdom, God in a sense has established man to rule over all of creation. Verse 28 confirms this interpretation:

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Mankind's rule over creation should come as no surprise to us as readers. The entire chapter has been filled with God's progressive activity. The climax of that activity is making man (in the image of God) to rule over creation!

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## Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — The Garden**  
**Matthew 26:36-46**

**P.M. — Would You Hear Them?**  
**Matthew 3:1-4**

## Blocking the Son

What an interesting day we experienced yesterday. Most viewers considered the much-anticipated event of the eclipse a fascinating experience. I, of course, felt that I could care less, until the event was minutes away; at that point my fascination was peaked. Brenna and Kayleigh came to the building and all of us, including Kim, took turns viewing the eclipse. For us, the eclipse ended and we did not have to get out into the crazy traffic. Even by the time we left the office, the traffic from points south and west had begun to clog the roadways in Elizabethtown and the surrounding area. All of this exciting activity was due to an event where there was blockage or partial blockage of the sun.

I'm convinced that I did not fully grasp the importance of yesterday's blocking of the sun. Many who have studied science no doubt could appreciate the event much more than I could appreciate it. That being said, I think there is another type of blocking of the Son that takes place that others might not realize is such an important event! Of course, as you can probably tell from the spelling, I am talking about the blocking of Jesus. Both Christians and non-Christians alike can be guilty of a form of blocking Jesus. Let me list a few ways below for your consideration:

1. Christians may "block" the Son (Jesus) by simply not living the type of lives He would desire for us to live. I am especially mindful of Matthew 5:13-16 where Jesus enjoins us to be salt and light to the world. He teaches that we should "let our light shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven." Yet many Christians block the light of the Son by living worldly lives of sin.

2. Christians may also "block" the Son (Jesus) by failing to teach others about Him. We are enjoined to take the Gospel to others (Matt. 28:18ff; Mark 16:15-16) for IT is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). Yet many block Jesus being "seen" by others because we do not tell others about His life and how His life has impacted our own. We don't live sinful lives in the sense of committing sins of commission, but we do sin by committing sins of omission.

3. Non-Christians also block the Son (Jesus) when they do not allow Him to be the light of their life! Some never allow the illumination of the Son (Jesus) to impact their lives. Because they do not, they live in darkness. Fascinating to me though is that just like yesterday's physical blocking of the sun, a non-Christian does not have to remain in that darkness for long. As what is blocking the Son moves away from their lives, the light and message of hope can enter and provide the teaching needed so that a non-Christian can have their sins washed away and walk in the light for the rest of their time on the earth.

I guess the question we all need to ask ourselves is "Are we blocking the Son from our lives?" If we are, why don't we make the much-needed change today! We may never have the same opportunity to do so again as life is even more unpredictable than the blocking of the physical sun. And while we are waiting to make a decision, the Son may appear for the last time—then it will be too late!

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