



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ

Confidence Corner

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I wanted to examine the concept of a prophet. In the Old Testament, the active participle is used to describe the prophet or seer. God provided prophets at various times

(Hebrews 1:1) and Jesus becomes the Perfect Prophet. While Moses was alive God promised He would one day provide a prophet like unto Moses (Deut. 18:15). But not all mention of prophets is positive. When I began to study this thought, I realized there was even more warning from God regarding false prophets than I anticipated.

There are false prophets so designated in both the OT and NT. Consider just a few examples: beware of false prophets (Matt. 7:15); false prophets will arise (Matt. 24:11; Mark 13:22); false Christs and false prophets will arise (Matt. 24:24); false prophets arose among the people (2 Pet. 2:1); many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 John 4:1). Christ definitely warned of false prophets.

The OT reveals there will be false prophets and even refers to them as wicked prophets in certain passages. Consider just a few of these examples: prophets are prophesying lies (Jer. 5:31; Jer. 14:14; Jer. 27:10; Jer. 27:14; Jer. 27:16); prophets who teach lies (Isa. 9:15); do not let the prophets deceive you (Jer. 29:8); they prophesy falsely (Jer. 27:15); they prophesy falsely in my name (Jer. 29:9); they have spoken in my name false words (Jer. 29:23); your prophets have seen false and deceptive visions (Jer. 14:14); where are the prophets who said the king of Babylon would not come? (Jer. 37:19). Trust me, there are tons more examples that could be shared.

I wanted to provide this information this week to tie into the inside article. Hopefully, both articles will provide insight into how careful we need to be to see that what we believe is contained in the Word of God. Don't follow after false people claiming to speak for God. Help friends who have been deceived by such people.

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I have a friend named Jesus.
There's no other friend like He.
I have a friend named Jesus.
Gave His life for me.
I have a friend named Jesus.
A perfect, sinless man.
I have a friend named Jesus.
For me He has a plan.
I have a friend named Jesus.
On Him I can rely.
I have a friend named Jesus.
All my needs He will supply.

author unknown



Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — THE BRIDE OF CHRIST
EPHESIANS 5:22-33**

**P.M. — THE FACTS OF SCIENCE
ROMANS 1:18-23**

The Real Deal or Something Counterfeit?

I came across an interesting story about a hemp farmer named Dale Weed (yes, you read that correctly) from NY State. I believe this news story provides a lesson. Just this year Mr. Weed started growing industrial hemp because of increasing popularity in the CBD industry. For Mr. Weed growing industrial hemp was going to be the answer to saving his farm. The only problem has been that for the first time since being a farmer, Mr. Weed is having people stealing his crops.

The fact that he is being robbed is quite interesting. Hemp looks and smells like marijuana and many people mistakenly think that Mr. Weed is growing the “weed” that many seek for the high it provides. Hemp does not provide that high; instead, it provides a headache—literally. Those who are stealing his crop are thinking they are getting marijuana when in reality that is getting something that though it is very similar, does not provide the real reaction of true marijuana.

Though people are buying into stealing pseudo marijuana, they are not aware that they have obtained something that is not the real thing they desire. Robbers think they have marijuana when in reality they do not!

Though what I am about to write is clearly not identical, I was thinking about how sometimes people think they are getting the real deal, when in reality they are getting something that is a dud. My main thoughts went to those in the denominational world. Often before even checking things out closely to see if what they are choosing is real, they take what men (and women) have “planted” (something other than the seed which is the word of God) believing they possess something that is valuable. In the end, there is no value to what they possess because it is powerless—it is the word of man—not the Word of God.

A number of points need to be addressed. First, how thankful do we need to be that God has revealed His will to us? We do not have to guess what God requires of us; He has provided that information in His Word. Second, since we have His Word and study it, we need to tell our friends and family who are “taking the hemp plants” (i.e. taking as their possess a false form of salvation) and thinking they have the real deal, that they, in fact, do not have the real deal. They think they have something that will make them feel good when what they really have is much worse than just a headache. Lastly, we ourselves need to keep looking to the seed, the Word of God, and accepting only what it produces.

People could read this and joke about me comparing the true Word of God to the genuine plant of marijuana. If that is how you read this article, then I have failed to make the point well enough. This article is really about not being deceived. This article is about only taking in what God reveals is true. And this article is about using a current event to help us see that many people still need the real deal—the Word of God. Will you help them obtain it?

John F. Board

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