



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXIV December 16, 2018 No. 48

Confidence Corner John F. Board

As we prepare to enter the new year (Lord willing) we continue our thoughts regarding the credibility of Scripture. In this week's Confidence Corner our focus is upon false charges made against Scripture. Let's examine a few thoughts regarding some false charges.

Critics of the Bible used to say that Moses was not the author of the Pentateuch. Critics base this claim upon the faulty idea that people did not know how to write in Moses' day. They also claimed that the priesthood and the sacrificial system that Moses wrote about developed much later. Based upon this false information many people made fun of the Bible.

This changed in 1975 when the Ebla Tablets were discovered. The Ebla Tablets contain almost 20,000 written records dating 1,000 years before the time of Moses. The Ebla Tablets also contained similar laws, customs, and sacrificial systems to those recorded by Moses; obviously the priesthood and sacrificial system was not a later "invention." Obviously, the claim of Moses to be the author of the Pentateuch is not so far fetched at all.

Critics also made fun of the Jacob and Laban narrative. When Jacob and Rachel left Laban's home, Rachel stole his family idols or teraphim (Genesis 31). This narrative was ridiculed for years because critics wondered why he would travel so many miles to recover the idols he could have easily replaced through some local "idol shop."

Well, in 1925 more than 1,000 clay tablets were found at a site in Mesopotamia called Nuzi. These tablets showed that whoever possessed the family idols could make a legal claim to all of the family property. So, if Jacob and Rachel had possession of the family idols, they owned everything that belonged to Laban. As people learned the truth on this matter, it did not seem like such a silly idea for Laban to pursue Jacob and Rachel.

Remember, the Bible has had critics for thousands of years. You can trust that the Bible will stand the test of time...the grass withers, the flowers fade, but the Word of the LORD endures forever.

jfb

WWJD. What Would Jesus Do? We often think of this phrase when faced with a difficult decision. I would like to take a different approach and use it with a different perspective in mind. What would Jesus do if He came back right now? Ask the question for a moment while hypothetically thinking that He didn't come back to take us up into heaven. What if He came back, and He sat in our church services? Would He be pleased, or would He be fairly disappointed in what his "church" has become? What would Jesus do if He sat next to us in worship? What would His reaction be after the "amen" of the closing prayer?

Would He be led to believe that our worship is meaningful? Would He be able to see that our heart is in the right place while sitting in the pew? Would He see some of us just simply going through the motions looking to punch our worship ticket? Would our worship truly be pleasing to Him? Even though Jesus isn't here physically, He hears and perceives our worship. He is with us when we worship Him and His Father. When you go to kneel before Him to worship Him, does He feel your heart come with your worship?

Have we become so numb to a list of tasks that our meaningful worship has turned into meaningless motions? Are we so accustomed to doing things that we lose the reason for doing them. Would Jesus feel worshipped if He sat before us today? Would He be reminded of the Pharisees and Sadducees who forgot what worship really was because they were so focused on the actions of worship? They forgot to include their heart in worship. Are we just filling a pew, or filling our heart with joy and love, because we have an opportunity to worship? When you worship God, is it in spirit and in truth?

Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — The Shadow of the Almighty
Psalm 91:1-2**

**P.M. — A Time to Reflect
Philippians 2:12-14**

Who Is Your Person of the Year?

Time has released their names for 2018 Person of the Year. It is fascinating to me the names included on the list. If your name had been in the press often in 2018, it appears that qualifies one for *Time* Person of the Year. I'm sure the people listed are listed for good reasons based upon the standard of the world. But I wonder who would be our Person of the Year?

Hopefully as Christians our view of who we would highlight as Person of the Year would be different from the world. Hopefully ours would be based on a higher standard, or at least a more spiritual standard.

What elder in the Lord's Church would we want to nominate? I am guessing any elder who would be worthy of such an honor would also be an elder who would not want to be nominated. But I do think of these men we often take for granted and just how amazing their service to us as a congregation is. Many who serve as elders also have full time jobs. These men come home from their secular work and begin the work of shepherding the flock. Often this involves the time assuming task of visiting the sick and shut ins. More often it involves efforts to get people to turn their lives back to God.

What deacon might you nominate as our Person of the Year? Again, after daytime jobs these men assume responsibilities because they desire to serve God and their brothers and sisters in Christ! They make plans and develop opportunities for members to serve often to have few show up to aid them in their plan. Yet still they continue their effort of trying to do what they can do to bring glory to the Lord's Church.

Perhaps your Person of the Year would be a woman. Those who serve as elder's wives or deacon's wives surely are worthy of consideration. But there are also countless women here who serve in various capacities that are unknown to most of the members. The church would not be able to bring the same level of glory to God without the wonderful women who work behind the scenes.

Perhaps your Person of the Year is some member who lost a loved one yet remains faithful in their service to God. Perhaps it is the person who has led the most souls to Christ in 2018. Maybe it is someone who restored several erring brethren that you hold in high esteem.

I am guessing if all of us seriously considered who our Person of the Year would be, ultimately it would be the same person who our Person of the Year was in 2017. When we as Christians look at others, there is One who stands above all others. Jesus Christ, our Savior, is our person of the year every year. He is the one who died on our behalf and He is the one to Whom we owe our souls allegiance.

Now for the big question...Have we lived our lives in 2018 in such a way as to reflect to others that we choose Jesus as our Person of the Year? If not, I know He will be your Person of the Year in 2019 as well. What will you do to change your life in 2019 so that it reflects your choice for the Person Who you feel is the One due the highest honor? It is something for all of us to ponder.

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*