



The Caller

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Confidence Corner

John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to examine how the Bible can be trusted. Though many things have changed through the years, one thing that we can trust will never change is

the Bible. The grass withers and the flowers fade but the Word of the Lord abides forever. I am so thankful for this principle.

In many realms of our lives, we will see continual change. In the cars my dad used to drive there was only an am radio. Later, we purchased a car that had AM/FM radio. When I was a teenager our family car had an 8-track tape player. When I went off to college, my car had an AM/FM/ cassette player. Several years after my daughters were born, we had a vehicle that had a CD player. My super amazing van from 1999 has a multiple CD disk player.

As cars progressed so did the way we listened to music. Soon not only were cars equipped with CD players, but they also had USB ports and Bluetooth capability so that we could listen to music from our iPod and phones. Never did I think I would see the day when a car would no longer come with a CD player because CD's were old technology.

So, as you can see, as the world moves forward so does technology. But here is a great thing! Though the world moves on to new and better things, the Bible has always been and will always be the best thing. Never will God's Word need improvement. Never will God's Word need to change to meet the current culture. The God who created the world also gave us His perfect timeless Word. Read it through again this year and be certain to appreciate the gift God has provided in Scripture.

jfb

Puzzle Me This

Adam, God made out of dust,
But thought it best to make me first.

So I was made before man
To answer God's most Holy plan.

A living being I became
And Adam gave to me my name.
I from his presence then withdrew
And more of Adam never knew.

I did my Maker's law obey
Nor ever went from it astray.
Thousands of miles I go in fear,
But seldom on earth appear.

For purpose wise which God did see
He put a living soul in me.

A soul from me God did claim
And took the soul from me again.
So when the soul from me had fled
I was the same as when first made,
And without hands, or feel, or soul

I travel on from pole to pole
I labor hard by day, by night,
To fallen men I give great light.
Thousands of people, young and old,
Will by my death great light behold.

No right or wrong can I conceive
The Scripture I cannot believe,
Although my name therein is found
They are to me as empty sound.

No feat or death doth trouble me,
Real happiness I'll never see.

To Heaven I shall never go
Or to Hell below.

Now when these lines you slowly read,
Go search your Bible with all speed,

For that my name is written there
I do honestly to you declare.

Sunday's Sermons:

A. M. — Jesus and the Kingdom: The Sower
Matt 13:3-8

P. M. — Questions and Answers: The Flood of Noah's Day
Genesis 7:19-20

How to Handle Snakes

Last Sunday we were looking at Jesus' teaching regarding our love for our enemies. Though I thought we had a good study as well as some good thoughts from our members, I wish I would have seen the following story so that I could have included it in our class.

The story is reported as follows: A man saw a snake being burned to death and decided to take it out of the fire. When he did, the snake bit him causing the man excruciating pain. The man dropped the snake and the reptile fell right back into the fire. So the man grabbed a metal pole and took the snake out of the fire and saved its life. Someone who was watching approached the man and said: "That snake bit you. Why are you still trying to save it?" The man replied, "The nature of the snake is to bite, but that is not going to change my nature, which is to help."

The lesson from the story is: Do not change your nature simply because someone harms you. Don't lose your good heart.

I think this story illustrates a good attitude to maintain especially when we are dealing with our enemies! Jesus obviously put it best when He enjoined His followers to love their enemies. "Do good to those who hate you" (Luke 6:27). In verse 31, Jesus continues, "Treat other people the way you want them to treat you."

Why is this important? The reason this is important is that even sinners are willing to do good to those who are good to them. If I am honest this teaching of Jesus is very difficult to master. Take for example the story of the man and the snake. What would you do if you were that man? I'm afraid that at the moment after the snake bit me and fell in the fire, I would probably think, "Serves you right you dumb snake."

I guess that is why we have to work so diligently to prepare ourselves for times when our enemies hurt us. If we fail to work to prepare ourselves for those times, we will simply react—and that reaction most likely will not be good.

So what about you? What are you doing to prepare yourself to treat others correctly when they mistreat you? A huge key is going to be our relationship with Deity. Do we pray and do we read Scripture in order to understand Deity. Do we, based upon that understanding, strive to act as the Godhead would act? It seems to me, the only way we can act as God would have us to act, is to make those necessary preparations ahead of time!

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