



# The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ  
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## Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we will provide information for those who seek to investigate the topic of whether the Bible we have today is reliable. This is obviously a vital question regarding the Christian faith. If our source

document is not reliable, we cannot have confidence in any conclusions drawn from it. If on the other hand what we have are "Holy Words long preserved for our walk in this world," then we have the greatest of confidence!

One relatively small monograph (it could be perhaps termed a booklet) is F. F. Bruce's *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* This is a great booklet for those who have questions regarding the reliability of the New Testament Documents. Indeed Bruce does provide a very convincing argument for the historical accuracy of the canon of the New Testament. This booklet can be purchased for under \$10.00 and is only 120 pages of text.

Another companion work, though not nearly as brief, is K. A. Kitchen's *On The Reliability of the Old Testament*. Though more pricey (\$36.00 paperback) and much more lengthy of a read (500 pages of text), this is still an excellent book to help confirm your faith in the OT documents. Kitchen concludes at the end of his examination "In terms of general reliability— and much more could have been instanced than there was room for here—the Old Testament comes out remarkably well, so long as its writings and writers are treated fairly and evenhandedly, in line with independent data, open to all" (500).

You may ask why is the OT work so much longer than the NT? Consider the difference in the time period (only one century 1st century AD), languages (only four), and cultures (Greco-Roman and Jewish) for the NT documents as compared to the OT (2000 years...3000 to do full background, documents compared would be in at least ten ANE languages, and there would be many bits of culture from all over factored into the study). Obviously, Kitchen did well to limit his work to five hundred pages! I hope this information will help you enhance your confidence in the Bible as an historically accurate document!

jfb

The first 60 minutes of a giraffe's life are the most crucial to its survival. With the legs of an adult being about six feet long, the fall alone for the newborn is a test of strength. As soon as the baby hits the ground its struggle to live begins. Being born in the wild Serengeti means that there is very little time to be vulnerable. The baby is at its most vulnerable while on the ground. Within the sixty minutes it must gain the strength to walk and find safety with mom. When a giraffe is born, instinct steers the animal to survival. Without the natural born knowledge and ability to survive predators would have an easy target for their next meal. The first hour of a giraffe's life is a lot like the first moments when we face adversity. Different from the giraffe our instinct can often times be to stay on the ground.

## Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

When we are faced with adversity and trials, the first great test of strength is the fall. Christians can be pushed to great lengths and can fall from very high places. We either hit the bottom and never make it back to our feet or we struggle and we fight to get back on our feet. Getting to our feet and clinging to our Heavenly Father's side is how we cling to spiritual survival. What are you to do? The way you respond to adversity within the first few moments can often lead to survival or demise. Will you let your spiritual instinct kick in and let it lead you to scripture and The Protector?

James 4:7 "**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**" Will you struggle to your feet and survive?

### Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Improving Your Serve  
 Matthew 20:20-28**

**P.M. — I Will Build My Church  
 Matthew 16:13-20**

## That Long Awaited City

Have you ever dreamed of going to a certain city? I guess the number of reasons someone might want to visit a certain city could be almost as endless as the number of people asked and the cities that people would want to visit. Let us consider perhaps a few reasons people might give for wanting to visit a certain city.

For me, a number of the cities that I would want to visit would be tied to my interests. Every time I see another group of friends and fellow preachers make a trip to Jerusalem and the Bible lands, I think how wonderful such a trip would be. A visit to such an area would no doubt make the Bible come alive!

Ever since I was young and interested in tennis I would dream of a trip to one of the cities where one of the Grand Slams is played. Mike SeEVERS would often talk about us going to the US Open or Wimbledon someday. Those are still "dream trips" that are highly unlikely to ever come to fruition. But there is one dream trip to a certain city that my Father has promised me!

For the Christian that journey to heaven is the journey to the ultimate city! Revelation 14:13 reveals that heaven will be that place to which Jesus indicated the dead in the Lord will be blessed. The term for blessed is a term that describes bliss. In heaven we will have eternal bliss! Who does not long for eternal blissful rest?

Heaven to me will be the ultimate city because of those who I will dwell with for all eternity. First and foremost, I cannot wait to be with the Holy, Holier, Holiest Godhead! Also present will be the created heavenly beings who have remained faithful to God. In addition, the righteous of all time will be present! To dwell in a place where all those present are either Deity or love Deity can only be described as the greatest Hope that a Christian could possess.

But there is another element regarding whom we will be with in heaven. Heaven will also be a place of reunion. Have you lost a loved one who loved the Lord? The older I grow the number of those I have loved who have loved the Lord and have passed from this life continues to increase. In a sense, as we grow older it is true that we have less ties to this earth and more ties to the heavenly city.

You may have a number of earthly cities of which you hope to visit one day. As a Christian I hope the ultimate city to which you long to go is the New Jerusalem, Heaven!

*John F. Board  
Elizabethtown, KY*