



# The Caller

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## Confidence Corner

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to examine some thoughts from Ecclesiastes 8:1-9. The book of Ecclesiastes was written by a wise man, most likely Solomon, as he was guided

by inspiration. Yet as guided by God, Solomon was able to record the results of his experimentation with all things worldly, and provide the best way to live life "under the sun" (here upon the earth). His conclusion on the matter is well known and is recorded in Ecc.12:13. I want us to look this day at what Solomon reveals regarding wisdom.

As we read Ecc.8:1-9 we may ask the following question: Who really is wise, and who has the skill to explain something that is hard to interpret? Some think the answer is, "No one" due to the negative answer that the language indicates is expected. But the second half of the verse is so positive. Why would the writer/Preacher say true wisdom will transform a person's face/ countenance if no one is wise?

My thought (check me and do your own study) is that he is not saying no one is wise, but wisdom is rare (and that perhaps no one can compare with a person who is truly wise). Wisdom is hard to find and not many will find it (only one man out of a thousand according to Ecclesiastes 7:28). There is a similar thought in the NT regarding the contrast of wisdom in the first few chapters of First Corinthians and well as the end of James 3.

As we apply the teaching regarding wisdom to the rest of Ecc. 8:1-9 we find other great concepts that are learned from the text. The person who has wisdom will recognize authority and not attempt to rebel. The one who is wise will obey God's will. In a nutshell, wisdom guides us to proper thinking regarding God and His will.

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## Bible Acrostic

The first letter of the answers below spell out another word that first appears in Exodus.

1. That which we are to do without ceasing.
2. The man God knew would command his household after him.
3. A bird God notices as it falls to the ground.
4. A church mentioned in Revelation.
5. The number of times Christ offered up Himself for sin.
6. That which Jesus calls Himself, "the true\_\_\_\_\_"
7. A man who kissed his brother who had wronged him.
8. The last book in the New Testament.

\* Answers are on page 3.

## Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Examining Love**

**Romans 5:6-11**

**P. M. — Don't Be A Copycat**

**Romans 12:1-2**

## AND THEN THERE IS THIS

I read the following story this morning on the Internet:

A North Carolina man was arrested and charged with simple assault Saturday for an alleged incident at a high school wrestling match, according to the Kannapolis Police Department's incident report directory.

A father of a high school athlete involved in the match was processed at the Cabarrus County Jail and on a \$1,000 bond. According to a Kannapolis Police Department news release obtained by several local media outlets, Jones rushed and tackled his son's high school opponent after his son was slammed to the ground on an illegal move. Neither student was identified by the police. It was unclear if the student-athlete who was tackled was injured. Neither Southeast Guilford High, the school of the student allegedly attacked, nor Hickory Ridge High, Jones' son's school, returned a request for comment.

When I read this, I thought to myself, "There surely has to be some back story to this!" Surely no father acts this way simply over a wrestling match?" But then I began to wonder, do some people get too serious over things like sporting events? Probably the answer is yes! And probably all of us have some example that we have seen first hand that is not far off what the father above did at his son's wrestling match. I actually witnessed during high school a match where the parents were going nuts because an Oak Glen wrestler was getting his eyes scratched by Charlie Shields. The referee was looking for the pin and could not see what was going on with Charlie's hands. I distinctly remember the police coming to be in full force as the Oak Glen fans exited the gym.

Why is it that we can be so serious about events that in the grand scheme of things are not really that important, but we cannot be serious about those things that are of utmost importance? Are we serious about our own soul's salvation ((Matthew 10:28)? Are we concerned with following the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18ff and Mark 16:16)? Are we concerned for our brethren who have fallen away from the faith (Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20)? Are we concerned about the orphans and widows (James 1:27)? Are we concerned about spending time with God through study and prayer?

Well, what about you? What gets you more worked up, a sporting event or someone's soul? I cannot answer for you. You must examine yourself. My hope is that your heart is set on spiritual concerns and that you enjoy sports as a form of recreation...remember it's only a game.

John F Board

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