



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXV January 27, 2019 No. 3

Confidence Comer John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to consider the teaching of Scripture regarding YHWH being a personal God. Contrary to a popular song from the 80's we do not serve a God who is watching us "from a distance."

Psalm 139 indicates that though YHWH's distance from us as we view it, is not distance at all. Though He may not be visible and though we may think He is far off in heaven, He is with us to a level we as humans can hardly comprehend!

This presence of Deity in the *Hebrew Bible* contributes to the view that YHWH, the God of the Hebrews, is a personal god. The personal promise of YHWH strengthens the case that YHWH is a personal god. There are ten passages in the *Hebrew Bible* that contain a Hebrew phrase that is translated "and I will be with you" or "I am with you" and is used in connection with YHWH being a personal god. In addition, there are twelve passages in the *HB* that contain a Hebrew phrase that is translated "YHWH was with" certain individuals.

From a study of these passages from the *Hebrew Bible* as well as several similar phrases, we come to understand that YHWH has always been and continues to be a God who is with us. He is working providentially in our lives today. When we are faced with difficult times or various challenges, such can be tough to see. Nonetheless, we have the assurance of Scripture that as we remain faithful to Him, He is with us!

We would do well to understand both the general presence of Deity as taught in Psalm 139. Whether we choose to follow Him or not, He knows all and sees all. Since such is the case, why not tap into the power that is found in following the will of God and allowing Him to also provide His special providential presence in our lives as well

jfb

For the first time in baseball hall of fame history, a nominee was elected to the hall of fame by a unanimous vote. The committee of voters consists of people who have been involved in the game and know the ins and outs of baseball.

100% of them voted "Yes" to put Mariano Rivera in the hall of fame. Is it justified? Can we figure out why he received such a voting outcome? His cut-fastball was known across baseball as one of the toughest pitches to hit. He is the all-time saves leader with 652 games saved. He entered the game with a lead of no more than three runs and pitched for at least one inning; or he entered the game, regardless of the score, with the potential tying run either on base, at bat, or on deck; or he pitched for at least three innings. It is safe to say if you needed to close out a game Mariano Rivera was the man to get the job done throughout most of his career.

We, too, have an all time saves leader who deserves a unanimous vote to be elected into our hall of fame. We have a Savior who has saved more souls. His gospel can be one of the easiest things to understand. When the battle with Satan and the world is tight and you need someone to win the battle call on Jesus. Call Him out of your bullpen, knowing you can depend on Him and that He will come through. **John 3:17** ¹⁷ **For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.** God sent Jesus to win us over from Satan. Jesus was sent to save us and take us to heaven one day.

Is Jesus one you call upon? Does He have your 100% trust, or only a portion? Your trust in Christ should always be 100%. Christ should be there with you in every matchup against Satan.

Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — Getting These "C"'s Will Help You in Life, Matthew 13:49-50

P.M. — How's Your Heart? Proverbs 4:20-23

Heartbreak

Heartbreak comes in many different forms. I “Googled” the phrase “heart-breaking stories” and began reading what were term the 20 most heartbreaking stories. As I read them, I thought to myself how I have known people who have gone through much worse.

Some of the stories involved the death of a loved one. Indeed heartbreak comes during these times. Brenna and I just were talking about how it was a year ago today (January 21) that her father passed away. We drove through the night and were able to be present for a number of hours before he finally passed. Yes, there was heartbreak no doubt, but there was also joy.

I’ve known other Christians who have faced heartaches that are beyond belief. To share many of their stories would be to present life events that were almost impossible to believe. Yet to see them today, they have a strength and a peace that is hard to explain—unless one knows the God that they serve.

Imagine the heartache God has endured because of sinful man! God knew before He created man that man would sin. God had in place a plan to redeem mankind! That plan involved the great heartache of God as He sent His only Son to redeem mankind. Surely God’s heartache is far greater than anything man has experienced as God loves and feels above anything mortal man can feel.

But when we as Christians realize the heartache that our sin causes God, we ought to be abhorred by sin and desire to rid it from our lives. Indeed Satan is powerful and will overtake the Christian despite the Christian’s best efforts not to fall prey to his temptations. Yet if we can ponder on the horrific nature of sin and the picture of the cross, surely we can be strengthened to overcome much of the temptation we face.

Remember, heartache is in the world because of sin. God loved us enough to provide a way for the power of sin and the heartache it causes to not be eternal. Through the gift of His Son, mankind can overcome the greatest power that sin can hold. Though we face pain and even physical death, we do not have to fear eternal death—we can overcome through the power of Christ. And realize as well that those who seek God wholeheartedly are those who when faced with heartache can overcome because they know something far greater awaits the faithful child of God.

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*