



# The Caller

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**Confidence  
 Corner  
 John F. Board**

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to examine a phrase found in the Lord's model prayer. One of the best known passages in the Bible contains

a word that appears nowhere else in all existing Greek literature up to the time the NT was written.

This word appears in what is often referred to as the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:11). The most well-known translation is, "Give us this day our daily bread." The word in question is the one translated "daily"—*epiousion*. Greek authorities still cannot agree either on its origin, or on its precise meaning.

Different commentators try to establish links with Greek words that are well-known, and many suggestions have been proposed as to the resulting meaning. Two suggested meanings that I think are worthy of consideration are give us this day our *supersubstantial* (indicating supernatural, from heaven) bread or give us this day our *daily* (or, what we need for today) bread. Actually I think both are included.

The phrase would be both a reminder of how God provided for them in the past with manna as well as how such provision should remind us to rely upon him to provide for all our daily needs. To pray thus, is a prayer of trust in God to provide for us in all areas.

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In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul writes to the Corinthians, "Imitate me just as I also imitate Christ." This doesn't seem like a very humble thing to say. Paul isn't exalting himself, or placing himself above others. He is simply saying that he lives to be like Christ. As he strives

to be like Christ and live a life pleasing to Christ he simply calls on others to imitate him as he strives to imitate Christ. There are a handful of people who come to mind when I hear or read this verse. There are people who I have come in contact with who live every day to imitate Christ. Just by following their example helps us to follow the example of Christ.

When I think of Freed-Hardeman University, I will always think of the many staff members who are daily imitators of Christ. One of the imitators of Christ who lived his life as a true imitator of Jesus Christ was Stan Mitchell. Some of you may have known him, of him, or maybe you've never heard the name. Brother Mitchell was a professor at FHU who taught many Bible classes, but he also lived what he taught his students. He has passed on due to a heart attack, but his influence and example will remain for ages as somewhat of a model for us to follow. A wonderful man he was, and a delight he was to have a conversation with! We often made jokes because we have the same name. He would often respond to the question "How are you?" with "Better than I deserve."

There may be someone in your life or in your memory who you reflect on how committed they were to service, love, and mere kindness. Maybe there is someone who showed you what imitating Christ is like. Are we living our lives as though someone else were following us? Do we strive to be like Paul in being like Christ? Who knows, you may one day be the one people imitate or look up to. Brother Mitchell would always close his class out with a worship song and his go-to saying. "God bless you, go with God." So I relay that saying to you. God bless you, go with God!

**Mitchell's  
 Weekly  
 Manna  
 Mitchell Lockhart**

**Sunday's Sermons:**

**A.M. — God Is  
 Hebrews 11:1-6**

**P.M. — Examining the Prophets  
 Jeremiah 44:2-6**

## What Stops Most People?

I once read “It’s the start that stops most people.” When I think about that statement there is a lot of truth to it when it comes to whether or not someone obeys the Gospel. It is the start or the first step that stops many people.

We often sing, “Only a step, Only a step...” but that step for many can be the toughest step. Why is that? What hinders people from obeying the Gospel? There are many excuses people often provide for their failure to obey the Gospel. Let us consider just a few.

Many people try to blame others for their failure to obey the Gospel. They will say that the Christians they have seen are nothing more than hypocrites. Most often this is simply an excuse to keep from making a decision. It is true that Christians are not perfect, but sometimes people fail to realize that the same Christian they saw commit a sin in a moment of weakness, is the Christian at home later that night on their knees in prayer. The question becomes, “Are they really a hypocrite?”

Others are deceived by thinking that the life of sin they enjoy is simply too much fun to give up. They do not have the proper view. Moses chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season (the passing pleasures of sin). He had it all as an adopted son of Pharaoh’s daughter but realized all the earthly benefits were temporary. Choosing to serve God was eternal.

Some people are deceived into thinking that they will have plenty of time to make the decision to obey the Gospel. I have heard older preachers say, “Not now is the present tense of never.” That may not be true in all cases but often when one says “Not now” it is indeed simply putting off ever making the important decision.

Ultimately, there is only one person who hinders one from becoming a Christian. That person is themselves. Ultimately that person will be the one who will also answer when they stand before Deity in Judgment.

*John F. Board  
Elizabethtown, KY*