



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 want to examine an argument which unbelievers attempt to use to discredit the Bible—that argument is usually offered as something similar: Since the Bible contains the

moral imperfections of those who are recorded as people who follow God, such proves the Bible is not a true book from God. It seems that the proponents of such arguments expect the Bible, since it is from God, to never include a negative element about one of the people mentioned. This argument has always appeared to me to do the exact opposite of what the opponents of the Bible have claimed. Let's examine why I would make such a statement.

I believe if the Bible were merely a humanly devised book, it would seek to cover the faults of the people mentioned as followers of God. Perhaps, such human thinking is what causes people to think that since the Bible contains flaws in the lives of those who follow God, it is not a book from God; I believe such is a direct result (as well as a good example) of the biblical teaching that man does not think as God thinks. You see, the example of moral imperfections recorded in the Bible, which critics try to use to discredit the Bible, conversely prove the Divine impartiality that belongs to the Bible!

A human devised book would seek to cover any flaws of those mentioned so as to not cause people to question the validity of the book. But a book from God records clearly such sins as Adam's sin and expulsion from the Garden, Noah and his drunken behavior with his daughters, Jephthah's faithless vow, David's lust and lack of control, Peter's cowardly denial, and Paul's struggle to do what he should and to not do what he shouldn't.

I am glad that God in His infinite wisdom saw fit to provide a book that recorded for me that those who follow Him are not perfect. If they were, I think I would have given up my failed journey to follow God perfectly. But since I know that there have been many who followed God but were themselves not perfect, I have a great hope.

jfb

Our New Associate/Youth Minister

I do not know about you, but I for one am excited for Mitchell Lockhart to begin his work with us on April 1, 2018. I know many of our young people have expressed how excited they are for Mitchell to arrive.

Mitchell is a December 2017 graduate of Freed Hardeman University. Mitchell has worked throughout his college experience as a youth minister for the Clarksburg congregation in Tennessee. He also has had experience as he served a summer as a youth ministry intern at Martin Church of Christ.

Since obeying the Gospel at age 12 Mitchell has participated in worship services by leading prayer, reading scripture, preaching, presiding over The Lord's Supper, and leading singing.

He hails from Huntingdon, TN and is still trying to decide if he is a Vols fan. Perhaps now is our chance to bring him over to the Cats (ok that is a stretch I am sure). I have been impressed with Mitchell and I have always been impressed with you all as a congregation. You are able to encourage and support those young men who seek to further their skills to serve in the Kingdom.

Mitchell and his family tentatively plan to be with us Wednesday evening for Bible study. They will move him into his apartment on Thursday if anyone is available to help with that move. We can let you know all the details.

April 1, 2018, will begin a new point of history for our congregation! I pray as we all work together, we will continue our efforts to reach the lost of the surrounding communities as well and glorify God through all we do!

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — Small Man
Luke 19:1-10

P.M. — The Lord's Prayer
John 17:20-26

What A Racquet?

If you ever had a child that played tennis and you began to research tennis racquets you would probably give up. Tennis Warehouse has a ton of racquet reviews but almost each player has something to say differently regarding the same racquet that others have play tested. So matching a racquet to a player's style and weeding through each review for hours of an evening simply to find a player that fits your kid's style of play who feels that "X" racquet is good for that playing style can be exhausting!

After finding the possible correct racquet the question becomes what string will you put in the racquet? Are you looking for power? Do you need a string that will produce more spin? Do you need a string that is "easy on the arm" to avoid injuries? Is natural gut the way to go or do you need a string that will last and not break after a match or two? Yeah trust me, it can become exhausting. Fortunately, I have a number of experts that I can text and that can help provide some guidance!

So now to my point! I began thinking about how frustrating it is to know that there are so many choices of racquet and string. If I were not totally dedicated to helping Emaleigh be the best she can be, I would probably have given up after a short while. So what does this have to do with anything you want to read? I began to wonder just how frustrated people who are searching for a church must become when there are so many choices out there (there is really only the Church the Lord died for, but I think you can see the connection I am trying to make from the perspective of someone who really knows nothing about religion and begins to search).

Consider just a few of the major religions. *Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Confucianism, Taoism, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, and Shinto*, are often referred to as the Big Eleven. Add to these the following relatively newcomers *Baha'i* (founded in the mid-1800s, with perhaps 7 million adherents) to *Rastafarianism* (founded in the 1930s, with about 1 million followers today) to *Scientology* (founded 1954 and today claiming 8 million members, although critics suggest the actual number to be as low as 100,000 or less) to *Wicca* (a 20th century revival or reconstruction of ancient European paganism, with perhaps 1 million followers today)... and those are just a few of the biggest and best-known. Now factor in, even if one chose Christianity, the many different "forms" in which it appears even in our communities.

I am so thankful that God has provided the Revelation that can be studied that points to the one true religion of the One true God! Those who have been pointed to the Bible by others (parents, friends, co workers, classmates) are blessed indeed! But here is a thought. Perhaps one way we can cut through all the confusion for others as they search for what is right is simply to show the example of Jesus to others. Let them see the love that exists in those who follow Him. It will only be through seeing us model Christ that we can truly point others to the only religion that really matters—pure, unadulterated, Christianity modeled after the pattern found in God's Word!

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*