



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 some thoughts regarding an ever-increasing love for this world. James clearly warns his readers "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmi-

ty with God? Whoever makes himself a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4). John warned his readers to "Love not the world nor the things that are of the world...for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the vain glory of the world are not of the Father but are of the world" (1 John 2:15-17).

It is no wonder that these followers of Jesus wrote such warnings. Jesus Himself warned about divided loyalties that result when we try to love God and mammon. Jesus instructed in *His Sermon on the Mount*, "Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon the earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through and steal. For where your treasure is there will your heart be also" (Mt. 6:19-21).

If there is one thing I learn, as I grow older, the things of this earth demand our attention and wear us out. In contrast, setting our mind on spiritual things encourage us and build us up! Paul's inspired advice "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things of the earth" (Col.3:1-2). This is still the best advice for the Christian to heed.

As we continue our sermon series on morals, we will find that our love for the things of this world also impact our moral thinking. Fill our minds with God's mind and our mind will be spiritually focused. Focus upon this world and what matters and your moral compass will become skewed.

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"Snickers satisfies"... "You're not you when you're hungry." "You turn into Betty White when you're hungry. Have a 'Snickers'!" You would think that this simple commercial idea would be nothing more than a simple advertisement for one of America's favorite candy bars. The popular ads that we see on TV often depict a person who turns into someone or something totally unlike himself or herself. All it takes is a 'Snickers' to satisfy their hunger, and they turn back into their original self. We often chuckle and find these skits quite funny, especially the one with Betty White playing in a football game. The phrase 'Snickers satisfies' is somewhat of a thought-provoking saying. Why reach for a 'Snickers' when you're hungry? Is it really enough to satisfy your hunger? Many nutritionists would recommend reaching for a granola bar or some orange slices over a candy bar.

In Matthew 5 we are presented with the 'Beatitudes' as the introduction of Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount*. You may recognize them because of the "blessed" at the beginning of each 'Beatitude.' Matthew 5:6 says "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

When you are hungry, whether it be physically, spiritually or hungry for anything else, what do you reach for? When you are hungry in the physical sense we should be reaching for something that can sustain us for an extended period of time. The same can be said for the spiritual sense.

When I am spiritually hungry, I need to be reaching for righteousness. "Jesus Satisfies..." Unlike the tasty candy bar that can give you a sugar rush for maybe 20 minutes, Jesus can satisfy your hunger for righteousness throughout the rest of eternity.

The question is, are you reaching for Jesus, or are you reaching for temporary satisfaction? If you hunger and thirst for righteousness you will be satisfied.

Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — *Morality*
Galatians 5:18-21

P.M. — *Amos*
Amos 8:11-12

NEVER GROW OLD

A favorite song of many Christians, especially those who are up in years, is the song *Where We'll Never Grow Old*. The song is as follows:

I have heard of a land on the faraway strand
this a beautiful home of the soul
Built by Jesus on high there we never shall die
This the land where we'll never grow old

Never grow old never grow old
In the land where we'll never grow old

Never grow old never grow old
In the land where we'll never grow old

When our work here is done and the life's crown is won
And our troubles and trials are o'er
All our sorrows will end and our voices will blend
With the loved ones who've gone on before

Never grow old never grow old
In the land where we'll never grow old

Never grow old never grow old
In the land where we'll never grow old

Perhaps you are like me; as you read the words above, you hear the song in your head! The song brings such an emotive response.

When I was younger I sang the song and felt some sense of escaping this world and being with Deity eternally in heaven. As I grow older (yet still only 54) the song has more meaning because I have a somewhat greater understanding of life here upon the earth.

It seems the longer I live the more pains I experience. I know many of these physical pains are mild now and others who are older deal with much worse, but I guess the greatest pains that I feel are not physical. The longer I live the more heartache I experience from those who do not desire to follow God.

I have known of those who lived a great portion of their life in faithful service to God. For some unexplained reason, I have seen some of these people turn their back on God and His will. It is inexplicable—the pain they have caused others who love God and love them.

How wonderful to know as the song teaches, even though we are in the process of growing old and closer to death, there is a place to which we can go where we will not experience the heartache and pain we have here—and where we will never grow old! I am looking forward to such a place!

*John F. Board
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