



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to ask the question, "What is the pinnacle of all things that exist on the earth?" The an-

swers given to such a question will depend mainly upon the source you use to gather your information. If the source is Science then one tends to answer the question based upon Evolutionism. If the source is Scripture then Genesis provides the answer. Let's examine both to see which you will choose to accept.

The answer that is found if one turns to Evolutionism comes from Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, about natural selection and the survival of the fittest. In a recent conversation with a doctor one writer noted that the doctor told him, that, according to Darwin, the pinnacle of living things is bacteria, the most tenacious and widely spread class of living organisms.

What is the answer if Scripture is consulted? In Genesis 1 it is *mankind* that is the pinnacle of God's creative work. It is for man, male and female, that God shapes, forms, and fills the earth. According to Genesis 1:26-27, God's pinnacle of His creation is a very special creature: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." Mankind, then, is distinguished by God as the pinnacle of all things that exist.

There it is for you and your house to choose. Will you choose Science and say that bacteria is the pinnacle of all things that exist on earth? As for me and my house, we will choose Scripture's answer—mankind is the pinnacle of all things that exist upon the earth!

jfb

In my last article we spent a few moments talking about 1 Timothy 4:12 which if you remember says ¹² *Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*"

The New Living Translation says it this way, *"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."*

This verse tells me not to let people think less of me because I'm young. How do I do that though? Do I just ignore people who are older than me and have gone before me? Do I let my words be what changes how people see me? What if I let a number of things be put into place, or should I let more than just words be the deciding factor?. After Paul tells Timothy to "Let no one despise you for your youth", he tells Timothy to set an example. Timothy should be an example with his speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

It is hard to be an example if we try to talk our way into it. In order to be an example we have to let every component, mentioned here in this verse, be a member of the final product. Does what comes out of your mouth show people Christ? Does your lifestyle match the lifestyle of a servant of God? Do you have the love for Christ and love for your fellow believers that screams Christian? Is your faith so strong that it cannot falter or waiver? Do other people see how strong your faith is without you using words to describe it? Is your heart and mind pure so that you can set the example in the other areas of focus?

Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — *Baptism is Not*
*Romans 6:1-4***

**P.M. — *Metaphors for God*
*Psalms 18:1-2***

Refraining from Folly

How hard is it for you to control your tongue? When people say something unkind to you or something extremely rude to you are you able to let it pass without an answer? Mothers, when someone says something negative about your child, is it possible to bite your tongue? Controlling the tongue is a mighty task!

James tells us in his epistle that the tongue is the toughest member of our bodies to control! When I found the truth at age 20 (thanks again Higg) I had a real struggle with my tongue. The main area that I had to learn to control was my sarcastic comebacks and biting comments. In high school I weighed about 119 lbs. (as my dad used to say “soaking wet”). Hence, I had the nickname “Twig” (another skinny boy David Murray already had the name “Stick”). But often times while we were at school or some school function someone would make a smart remark and I would have a response (without cursing) that would leave my “opponent” speechless. The saying was “Nobody “faces” the Twig!” (“faces” was a term used to say “no one gets anything over” someone). Though I did not curse in those “comebacks” I would be about as unkind as one might imagine. Needless to say, when I became a Christian, I had some changing to do!

We sometimes sing a song entitled *Angry Words*. That song contains a line which we sing; it says: “For a moment’s reckless folly thus to desolate and mar.” How true it is! The best of relationships and the longest of friendships can be destroyed by some unkind biting remark or accusation. Some marriages suffer great harm by a hurtful, mean comment said out of utter frustration. A politician can tear down years of a wonderful reputation in one “off the cuff” speech...all in a moments reckless folly.

Jesus, our perfect example is our ultimate role model in all areas but especially as His example relates to the tongue. I can’t imagine being Jesus, the Creator of all things, and having what I created speak condescendingly to me. I can’t imagine the very ones I came to save...as I am bearing their sin in the body on the tree...reviling me. Yet Peter tells us regarding Jesus, that “when He was reviled against, He reviled not back.” Amazing! Unbelievable! Jesus, the very One who had such power in His words that He could speak the world into existence—the one who with His very words showed He had the power to not allow Himself to be arrested, was perfectly able to control His tongue.

I don’t know about you, but I know I have come a long way in my control of my tongue! Though that is the case, I still have to repent of some hurtful ways in which I have, in a moment’s reckless folly, failed to control the smallest of all members. It makes me amazed even more at my Savior!

*John F. Board
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