



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 will examine briefly the question of whether death was in existence before the fall of man, or if death entered into the world through sin. The answer, if we rely on

inspired testimony is clear; death entered into the world through sin.

So why do some OT students believe that death was in existence before the fall of man? Some have decided based upon speculation that since God using perishable matter created man that man was mortal when he was created but he had within his grasp the possibility of immortality. But I would suggest that if man was already mortal before the fall, that when God pronounced the penalty, "thou shalt surely" such would have meant immediate death. But if immortal and then the punishment was announced that they "would surely die," that would not necessarily mean immediate death, rather that death would now be something man would have as a part of their existence.

Reasoning as humans though, one might say, "Like animals who were created by God, death is intrinsic to human existence and what would eventually cause them to die is that they would be separated from the source of life, the tree of life." So the penalty "thou shalt surely die" would result in no longer having access to the tree of life.

Though I guess I must admit that from purely a human wisdom perspective this is a possibility, what negates it as a possibility for me is that the NT clearly states that death entered the world through sin (Rom 5:12). It does not say that "sin caused death by separating man from the tree of life"...it says death ENTERED the world through sin. I find it hard to grasp that if death was already a part of man because he was mortal, and the separation from the tree of life is what brought about death, it is hard (though perhaps not impossible) for me to see how the "inspired" word choice of "entered" would be the best word choice. For me that settles the matter. As always, study this topic for yourself.

jfb

Elizabethtown Church of Christ Live Righteous Youth Rally

Devoted

Acts 2:42-47

July 28-29, 2017

**Keynote Speaker:
Matt Cook (Henderson, TN)**

**Class Teachers:
Nathan Ferguson (Franklin, KY)
Spencer Clark (Louisville, KY)
Nick Secula (Smiths Grove, KY)**

**Registration Times:
Friday @ 6:30 p.m.
Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Please RSVP by July 1 at 270-765-6446
or call for more information.**

Limited Housing Available

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Peter's Case for Christ
Acts 2:22-24**

**P.M. — The Back Story
2 Kings 5:8-10**

Big Reedy Bible Camp

2017

