



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I would like to examine some thoughts regarding Jeremiah 6:16. In this passage, Jeremiah charged the people of God (Southern Kingdom) as follows: "Stand in the

ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way."

In today's religious climate, even in the church of our Lord, the mindset is not the same as it was some 30, 40, 50 years ago. Today ecumenical thinking and the concept of pluralism have molded the mindset. Truth and authority have been questioned for so long that many today question whether anything is true.

In a time such as this, I believe Jeremiah's statement of old is good for our generation to heed. The Church today needs to stand in "the ways" and ask for the "old paths" and seek to find "the good way" God has provided through Scripture.

Why do I mention this idea? I think most of us realize that many areas of truth are under attack. Many do not care what God has revealed about these truths. Marriage, the home, homosexuality, abortion, and the worship of the church are all under attack from the mindset in today's world. Our nation's morals continue to erode as we as a nation and as individuals fail to consult God's Word.

Each day our focus as the people of God must be upon "what says the LORD." In order to know what God has said we must return to His Word. God's timeless message to mankind comes from One who is the Creator and knows best how to direct mankind. Each one of us must be determined to not only know His message but also share that message to a world that desperately needs His guidance. May God bless us in our efforts to always "stand in the ways" and "ask for the old paths!"

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Guest Article

Are You Smarter Than a Mouse?

by Steve Higginbotham

I once heard about a man who had a problem with mice, so he set out a mousetrap and baited it with cheese. In the morning, he discovered the mousetrap had sprung on an unsuspecting mouse, but the trap did not kill the mouse. What surprised the man was that when he discovered the sprung trap, the mouse was struggling, not to escape, but to reach the cheese! This mouse narrowly escaped death, but instead of pulling itself free, it continued in the pursuit of what almost killed it.

I would like to think that people are a lot smarter than mice, wouldn't you? Yet, have we ever pursued a path that leads to our destruction? Then, by God's providence, we are the beneficiaries of a "wake-up call," a "near miss," or a "second chance." But, instead of stopping our pursuit of what will destroy us, we dust ourselves off and continue on our pursuit of destruction.

Friends, if we have been the beneficiaries of God's kindness, surviving a "near miss," and being given a "second chance," let's prove we're smarter than a mouse and stop pursuing what will destroy us! (source preachinghelp.org)

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — God Is
Psalm 139:17-18**

**P.M. — A Few Biblical Thoughts on Love
1 Corinthians 13:1-8**

Reminiscing

Every time Kayleigh, and now Emaleigh returns to college there is a void in our family. Obviously, though it is a void, there are far more blessings attached to her being at FHU than there are voids with her being gone. But Brenna, Kayleigh, and I all will say from time to time, "I wonder what Emaleigh is up to today?" Our thoughts cause us to think of Emaleigh throughout the day and this process led me to remember something Emaleigh once told me when she was about 10 years old. It is a good memory.

We were riding together somewhere when Emaleigh said, "Hey dad, have you ever noticed how taking trips is like living the Christian life?" You have to understand, taking long car trips was more the norm than the exception for the Board kids. At any rate, we had recently returned from a 13-hour trip to Iowa. We had another trip planned for Florida. I wondered what Em meant by a trip is like the Christian life so I prodded to hear more.

Emaleigh began by saying, "You know how you have to pack for a trip...well, that's like studying and preparing for your baptism. Next, you have to plan your route... that is like understanding your goal in Christianity. Next, you need to get on the road ...that is like starting the Christian journey by being baptized. Then the bumps in the road and traffic jams you encounter are like Satan tempting you not to continue on your journey. Finally getting to where you are going is like making it to heaven."

As I took all of that into my mind that day I remember thinking how the perspective of a child can be so clear. In a sense, before we made the decision to become a Christian, we do need to pack those necessary items like knowledge of God's Word which leads to faith (Rom.10:17) and obedience. And yes, we need to understand where our Christian journey will take us (i.e. count the cost Lk.14:25ff). And like anticipated trips sometimes the decision to obey the gospel never seems to come (at this time Emaleigh had expressed a concern for a loved one who had not yet obeyed the Gospel). Sometimes we need to get started on the journey. We can no doubt relate to traffic and other bumps in the road that can cause us to be tempted to give up "our journey" (1 Cor. 10:13; 15:58 and 1 Pet. 5:6-8). But like Emaleigh said, getting to our destination makes everything else worthwhile. Heaven is a wonderful place that Jesus went to prepare for us (John 14:1ff; Rev. 21).

I remember thinking that I hope Emaleigh would always keep this child-like perspective and continue her Christian "trip"...so far she is doing quite well in this journey. Thanks for allowing me to reminisce a little.

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*