



The Caller

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Confidence Comer John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Comer* I would like to highlight some thoughts from Psalm 139:11-12. The Psalmist in this section of the Psalm stresses another aspect of his

inability to escape the LORD's presence. From the previous verses of Psalm 139, we have learned there is no escape found in journeying here or there, or anywhere.

The Psalmist will now address whether the darkness could hide him from the presence of the LORD? According to Gesenius the Hebrew word used by the Psalmist is used metaphorically in Psa. 139:11. The meaning here is that darkness shall fall upon him or overwhelm him. It is interesting to note the same root is translated "bruise" in Genesis 3:15. Is it that the darkness is so thick as if to bruise, or does this wording lead more to the concept of "overwhelm?"

The second phrase, again, stresses the darkness; it reads: "and the light about me night." The Qumran manuscript has "the night (become) a belt around me." If the psalmist uses the thickest darkness there would still be no escaping the presence of the LORD. The darkness would be like daylight to Him. Albert Barnes is credited with the spoken quote regarding the darkness described in this passage, as "it shall be as if I stood in a full blaze of light."

The role of darkness is to conceal...to hide. Even that which the LORD intends for darkness from creation, cannot fulfill its role in the Divine scheme where the LORD is concerned. Darkness cannot fulfill its role to hide; it is powerless before the LORD. After all, it is the LORD who controls light and darkness from the beginning.

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FALL GOSPEL MEETING

OCTOBER 13-16, 2019

with

Robert Hatfield

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Jesus, Head of the Church
Colossians 1:15-20**

**P.M. — The Bible
2 Timothy 2:15**

Who Will Be the Champion?

Boise State, Clemson, Oklahoma, U of L, Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee, USC, Notre Dame, and the list goes on...who will be the National Champions of College Football? Sure some of the teams listed left their fan base bummed out while some left their fan base—shall we say—unimpressed. Others played “powerhouses” like University of Houston and Duke and won handily as would be expected. Boise State showed once again that even major college football programs cannot take them lightly. Some schools who had such high hopes had those hopes shattered by injuries to major players in the program.

I have mixed feelings about college football. Late August and early September used to be a time I would highly anticipate. It is not Alabama’s fault they have risen to excellence, but nonetheless, their excellence takes a little of the fun out of the college game (unless of course, you pull for the Crimson Tide). Clemson is coming on and has shown themselves to also be a program of excellence. They have shown they are able to defeat programs like Alabama. Other programs rise to a level and get much hype but seem to not quite yet be where Alabama and Clemson are. I’m not saying some of the top-rated teams in the nation cannot beat Clemson and Alabama; it is simply that if they played 5 times Alabama or Clemson would likely win at least 3 of the 5 games. For the most part, through discipline and hard work, Clemson and Alabama have separated themselves from the pack. Oklahoma and Notre Dame are getting closer. Yet any of these teams can give 110% for 365 days a year, and at the end of the year be disappointed.

Here is my point—in spiritual matters we can already know who will be champions. This year in college football your guess is as good as mine (I think Jalen Hurts is going to be the X factor myself, but I have been wrong before). But isn’t it wonderful to know that there is no guessing factor in Christianity. The Christian is promised that they will be champions (even super champions) not because their own hard work has earned them a championship, but rather because Jesus Christ has already provided the assurance of our championship. Since Jesus has already won the victory, we know He is powerful enough to provide the victory for us as well. We know He is powerful enough to be faithful to His promise to those who follow Him.

Paul was able to pen the inspired words we read in 2 Timothy 4:6ff. He had confidence that he would receive the crown of righteousness from the perfect Judge. He went on to write that it would not only be him that would receive such a crown but all those who loved the appearing of Jesus. Do you long for Jesus to return? Have you given Him your life? Do you give your all every day to Christ? If sometimes you fail, know the blood of Christ keeps on cleansing us as we walk in the light—and at the end of the journey, we can have a home with the Godhead in heaven. What a promise--we will be Champions in the only thing that ultimately matters.

*John F. Board
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