



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we will examine a passage that should provide Christians a great confidence. The passage to which I am referring is Romans 8:1,

"Therefore there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." What an amazing and truly lofty concept.

First let us examine, what does Paul mean when he uses the phrase "those who are in Christ Jesus?" To answer this question we only need to look back a few chapters to Romans 6:1-4 where Paul writes, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein? Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life." We are in Christ when we are baptized into Christ Jesus.

Christians who have been baptized into Christ have "the firstfruits of the Spirit" (8:23), which include new life in the Spirit (8:10). They are provided the guidance of the Spirit through the Word (8:4-5). The Spirit provides intercession for them (8:26-27). The Spirit who dwells in Christians (v.11) indicates that they are God's children (8:15-16). The Christian has the right to address God as "Abba" (8:15). The Christian has a new status as co-heirs with Christ (8:17). The central evidence that salvation has been accomplished is the Holy Spirit in the Christian.

How wonderful to know that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. What a blessing to have the Spirit to dwell in us as Christians. Though we were undeserving, Christ provided us the freedom from condemnation we so sorely needed.

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There's five seconds left in the 4th quarter of the championship game. The score is 14 to 17, and the ball is on the other team's 2-yard line. Your team is down by a field goal. You have no timeouts left and time for just one more play before the end of regulation. Being

down by just a field goal you can either kick a field goal to send the game into overtime, or you can go for the end zone and the win. If you kick the field goal you can almost guarantee the 3 points. If you go for the end zone you risk losing the game. On the other hand if you go for it and score you win the game. What do you do? Do you put the game as well as the season on the line? You also risk putting your career (as a coach) on the line especially if you come away with the loss.

Do you play it safe or do you risk it for a better reward? There has been talk about what people are willing to sacrifice or risk for something. All politics and opinions aside, what are you willing to risk to further the Kingdom of God?

You have a friend at work that regularly speaks out against God and is fairly vocal about his or her beliefs. How do you react to it? Do you play it safe and pretend you didn't hear them talking badly about your Father in heaven, or do you take the risk and defend Him? It takes just a count to 3 in order to either say something or keep quiet. You can remain quiet and wait for the next time or a better opportunity. You can also put it all on the line. If you speak up you not only risk changing the way your co-workers may look at you, but you also risk possibly your career.

What if we all stopped for a minute and thought about what we are willing to risk for the cause of Christ. Are you willing to put everything on the line to possibly add a soul to the kingdom? What are we playing for? Are we **PLAYING** for a **TROPHY**, or are we **LIVING** for **HIM**?

Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — How Much is the Cost?
Luke 24:33**

**P.M. — A Little More Time
Ephesians 5:15-17**

Love Life and See Good Days

Do you seek happiness in this life? I am guessing the answer to my question is yes! I think it is safe to say that happiness in life is a universal appeal of mankind. Even those who do not know God strive to find happiness. One of the documents written by the founding fathers of the United States stated that all men had the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. So I assume it is safe to say that if you are reading this article, you seek happiness in your life.

For many who seek happiness the problem is that they seek happiness in the wrong places. Many desire to find happiness in power or wealth. Others think happiness will be found in the pursuit of good health. But did you know that those who seek happiness in these areas will never find it? Our hospitals are filled with people who seek happiness in the wrong things and then have stress related illnesses. Did you know that the number of people who take their own lives is greater than the number of people who murder others? Counseling professions are booming because people are distraught over the inability to find happiness in this life.

Solomon wrote how (though he literally had it all—power wealth and money) did not have happiness in those things. It was not until he saw the real purpose of life that he understood happiness. Remember his conclusion as he considered all things was that his life was about fearing God and keeping His commandments! Ecc. 12:13.

In ladies class we are studying I and II Peter. In I Peter 3:10-11, the inspired writer Peter references Psalm 34 when he writes:

“the one who desires life, to love and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. he must turn away from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.” (NASV)

We are going to be examining and applying very practical lessons from the letters of Peter. Today we will begin with what Peter says we need to do to find happiness in this life. We will then look at other practical thoughts from Scripture that our Creator has provided to help us seek happiness.

In John 10:10 Jesus said that He came that we might have life and life more abundantly! Jesus has provided us the necessary information to live the abundant life! May we seek Jesus' message of how to obtain happiness in this life!

*John F. Board
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