



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I wanted to examine a biblical principle that could help change our mindset as a nation, if we would only consider it very seriously. That biblical principle is found in Genesis 6:9

and it reads, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." This passage is often used as the principle for the sanctity of all human life. ALL human life needs to be valued and treasured.

Most often this biblical principle is applied in the discussion regarding abortion. The killing of innocents is astounding and many will no doubt give an account for their callous and careless taking of human life. But yet this is not the only place we as Christians should apply the principle of this passage.

In our society today, whenever there is a murder that occurs, instead of horror that a life has been taken and thus a soul potentially has been lost, society will begin taking sides. Private debates are held and news outlets will begin to argue as to whether or not the person who killed another person "were within their rights" to do so. Somewhere in the mix is the failure to realize the horror of the loss of life.

I wonder if as Christians, rather than our first and primary focus turning to the debate of whether the killing of an individual was justifiable, if we could simply first see the sorrow that a life made in the image of God has been taken. God takes no joy in one's death and perhaps as His followers we should think as He thinks. All human life needs to be valued—then perhaps any human life would not be taken so casually. And when one dies, let us as Christians be grieved.

jfb

Hebrews 11:1 says "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen." Some may say that we are saved by faith alone. According to Hebrews 11 just having faith isn't what gave recognition to those mentioned in this chapter. It doesn't just list characters in the Bible and say that they had great faith. Though they had great faith, their great faith led them to something. Abel was led to offer a more acceptable sacrifice. (v.4) Enoch was led to live a life worthy of being taken up into heaven so not to experience death. (v.5) Noah was led to not only building an ark, but also building it in reverent fear and respect of God. (v.7) Abraham was led to trust in God and faith led him to go to a place he did not previously know.

It wasn't faith alone that pleased God. It wasn't faith alone that allowed these men and women in the Hall of Faith to make the list. It was what they were led to do because of their faith. It was the fact that they put their faith into action. There is a difference in saying you believe in God, but it's another thing to allow your belief in Him to lead you to act upon it. If we were to look at the very next book in the NT in the book of James we would read that faith without works is dead. My faith without action is useless. James writes in 2:18 "18 But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." James is saying that in order for you to show faith you have to show it by your works.

"Works" is used to describe putting faith into action. Faith alone is not the saving factor. Having a faith in the Son of God leads you to not only see the sin in your life but also to turn away from that sin (Repentance). You also realize that Christ is the one who can cleanse you from that sin. That belief and that change in heart and mind leads you to wash all of your sins away (Baptism). Then my love for Christ should lead me to put my faith into action every day by living, as a Christian should live, and living every day to please God (Live Faithfully). Is your faith strong enough to lead you to get up and do something for Christ today? If it's not, then why isn't it?

Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Ask for the Old Paths
Jeremiah 6:11-16**

**P.M. — After Death
Luke 16:19-31**

9-11-01

“Where were you when the world stopped turning on this September day?” This line from Alan Jackson’s country music song brings all kinds of emotions to our minds. I remember that day vividly as I am sure most everyone does who was old enough to comprehend in some way that we were under attack.

I had dropped KK off at Johnson Elementary and was driving back when I heard the announcement of the first plane come over the radio. I went to the office, not fully realizing that the first plane was not just simply a tragic accident. I began watching the event unfold, in disbelief, on a little black and white television with rabbit ears. I called Brenna and we could not believe what we were seeing.

The tragic events of that day remind us of many things and can be used to illustrate many spiritual truths. We were under attack that day as a nation. As Christians we are under attack each day by our enemy Satan (1 Peter 5:8). We often think of those first responders who gave their lives that day to save others but as Christians we have One Who saved us from an eternal death.

Though there could be many more spiritual applications, there is one that I want to highlight today. In ladies class we are discussing the inspired advice God has provided for us that we might live joyous lives. One such inspired edict is that we must live our lives focusing upon the current day that God has given to us. We do so for a number of reasons. Perhaps the main reason we rejoice in the day God has given us is that we are not guaranteed another day. We could die, or the Lord could return, at any given moment.

Aside from the Lord’s return or our death, there are other reasons God provides that we should rejoice and serve God in the current day we are given. If we do not focus upon what we can do with the current day God has given us, we are robbed of joy by the mistakes of yesterday or the fear of what tomorrow will bring. We worry about things that happened in the past when we cannot change those events; we can only repent of past sins and strive to live lives more closely aligned with God’s Word. We worry about the “what if’s” of tomorrow and as Jesus pointed out, we waste the day we are given in fear of something that may never happen. Jesus’ statement that “sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” (Matthew 6:34) is something we all need to heed.

Today as I write it is the anniversary of 9-11. This day can serve to remind us we are not guaranteed tomorrow. We could be taken from this life...or the Lord could return...so let’s get the most out of the day the Lord has given us—TODAY. Rejoice and serve God in this day!

*John F. Board
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