



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I want us to focus upon what an amazing Savior we are blessed to serve. It is difficult for many to consider

how Christ being lifted up on the cross could draw people to Him (John 3 and John 12:32), but it is not the cross, alone, which is the convincing element. People who read Scripture are "drawn" to Jesus for other reasons as well.

Though Jesus was crucified and placed in a tomb, the tomb was unable to hold Him. The Soldiers tried to keep Him in the tomb, but were not successful (Matthew 27:63-66). When Jesus arose according to what He predicted, the leaders tried to convince the soldiers to lie and say while they slept the disciples stole the body. But the many witnesses (I Corinthians 15:3-8) and the fact that He walked among men for forty days and was seen, heard and touched by numerous people, gave credibility to the resurrection of Jesus.

The fact that Jesus' body is no longer with us is evidence suggesting He did what Scripture states—he ascended to heaven. He is seated at the right hand of God. He is the head of the Church (Colossians 1:18). He is our Intercessor and Mediator (Romans 8:34 and I Timothy 2:5). Jesus has been made King of kings and Lord of lords (I Timothy 6:15) and has received a name that is above all names (Philippians 2:9,10).

What an amazing Savior we serve!
Are you committed to Him? I hope you are!

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Be Prepared

There is a lot of buzz about the Lord's return. Many feel that with the eclipse and the natural disasters that the end of the world is eminent. We mentioned already that the passage that many employ regarding the end of the world is misinterpreted. It really has to do with an event that already occurred—the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

Such does not mean that we need to be complacent regarding the second coming of Jesus though. Luke recorded Paul's message in which he told those gathered that "...God commands all men everywhere to repent because He has appointed a day in which he will judge the world." God is faithful so we can rest assured that day is coming. We simply do not know when it will be. Jesus indicated in Matthew 24:34ff that even He, while He was here on the earth, did not know the day or the hour such would occur. He went on to preach the need for us all to be prepared for that day... whenever it might be!

The sober reality of it is that many will be unprepared. Sadly those unprepared will go away into everlasting or eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46). Those who are prepared will go away into eternal or everlasting life! Are you ready for that day to come?

Remember, there is a great day coming when the Lord shall gather His saints for heaven—but that day will only come for those that know the Lord. Are you ready to appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10)? I pray that you are!

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — The Gospel: God's Power
Romans 1:16-17**

**P.M. — War: What is it Good For?
James 4:1-4**

Pleasing God

Daniel Webster in his older editions of his dictionary used the following as an illustration for the word "Please." After providing the meanings of "To be agreeable to," and "to satisfy" he notes, "As to please God or do His will" (note: I capitalized "His" though that is not how Webster has it in the quote). Webster was fond of the Bible and perhaps he realized that some form of the word "please" is found 106 times in the Bible.

Let's examine this concept of pleasing God in this week's *Caller*. It helps us to desire to seek to please God when we are made aware that such was the goal of Jesus, our Lord. In John 8:29 we find that pleasing God was Christ's ultimate goal and mission in life. If we understand Christ has the desire to please God, and we understand that Christ left us an example to follow in His steps, then the conclusion follows that we too should desire to please God if we desire to follow in the steps of Jesus.

Consider some places in Scripture where it is recorded that certain things please God. In 1 Corinthians 1:21 we read "it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." In Colossians 1:10 we read that walking worthy of the Lord is fully pleasing to Him as are being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. In the Old Testament book of Psalms we read how praising God in Psalm and magnifying Him in thanksgiving pleases Him. And our young people can know that obeying your parents is pleasing to God as well (Colossians 3:20).

But the Bible also teaches that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). This is not the only time the lack of something being pleasing to God is found on the pages of Scripture. In Romans 8:8 we read that living to satisfy the flesh is displeasing to God. 1 Corinthians 10:5 indicates that those who backslide are not pleasing to God. In 1 Thessalonians 2:15-16 reveals that when someone withholds the word of God this is displeasing to God. Likewise a religion or religious acts that are done to please men rather than God are not pleasing to God (Galatians 1:10).

How important is pleasing God? I think most of us know the answer to this question is it is of the utmost importance that we seek to please God if we desire to spend eternity with Him in heaven. Even while we live here upon the earth and reach out to God for guidance, if we are not striving to please Him, our prayers will be hindered (1 John 3:22).

*John F. Board
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