



# The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ  
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## Confidence Corner John F. Board

In the next few weeks of *Confidence Corner* we want to get back to some basic truths that confirm our faith in God. There is adequate evidence that our Godhead in heaven exists. We want to

consider some thoughts along those lines, Lord willing, for the next few weeks. We will develop the argument a little more in weeks to come.

What did you sleep in last night? I am guessing your bed. How did that bed come to be? Did it just make itself or did someone make it? We all know the answer! We understand in the physical world the principle that all things we have were made by someone (or some machine...but who made the machine?, etc.).

As I drove to the office this morning I thought of honey. There is a person in our neighborhood that has a sign in the front yard that reads, "Honey For Sale." I tweaked my back this morning so when I arrived in the office I was searching for a chair that would provide good support. I found one in the library. While there I also saw Sister Betty Jackson's excellent material, *We Believe Because*. Sister Jackson's work is a curriculum for grades Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

At any rate, the first lesson was on bees. Bees are a great example of God's existence. What makes honey? Bees, right! Who made bees? We have to answer that question...we cannot simply ignore it. After detailed study one will conclude that God made bees. There is so much more to say and even more evidence from bees to develop a belief in our little ones that God exists. Sister Jackson's material is available to check out of the library and she provides wonderful thoughts for young minds. If you have not seen it and are a parent of small children, it would be a great resource.

jfb

Sunday, October 7, I will begin a sermon series on the 12 Apostles titled *Twelve Ordinary Men*. Each month on Sunday night we will be digging into the characteristics of each of the 12 apostles—yes even Judas Iscariot, the apostle who betrayed Jesus. Though he will always be known for his betrayal of Christ, he was still one of the early followers of Christ.

*Mitchell's  
Weekly  
Manna*  
Mitchell Lockhart

The apostles of Christ were people just like you and me who were called to complete the task of filling the world with the love of Christ. Jesus could have very easily chosen religious members of society, but Christ being the molder of men that He is, even took ordinary men and tasked them with a more than extraordinary job.

As we sift through the apostles we will get a better idea of what they were like, in not only their greatest moments, but also their darkest moment. The apostles became quite extraordinary men, but only because they allowed Christ to lead them. If Christ was able to unite two people from two different places in life, Simon the Zealot who worked against the Roman government and Matthew the tax collector who worked for the Roman Government, then imagine what we can do if we allow Him to rule in our lives?

October 7 will be an introductory lesson over the apostles as a group. The following week we will look at our first apostle, Peter, and the course of his life with Christ. Just because you see yourself as **ordinary**, it doesn't mean that Christ can't work through you to do something **EXTRAORDINARY**.

### **Sunday's Sermons:**

**A.M. — Marriage and the Family  
Genesis 2:18-25**

**P.M. — Oceanography and the Bible  
Psalm 33:6-8**

## ATTEMPTED ATTACKS ON OUR SAVIOR

Many scholars, Jewish and Christian alike, have argued that the concept of a Messiah, and especially a Messiah who would suffer, did not emerge in the pre-exilic (before the Babylonian captivity of 606/605 BC) or even the exilic period, but emerged only at the end of the OT period or the beginning of the Roman period. Because of this false belief, the idea that the Messiah may have been regarded as a figure who would suffer has been widely rejected.

This view has been one of many reasons that *The Jesus Seminar* scholars have held a skewed view of Jesus. They argue that if Jesus really did conceive of himself as the Messiah, he would not, as a Jew, have predicted his own suffering and death. Following this principle to its logical conclusion, *The Jesus Seminar* famously eliminated any sayings from the Gospels in which Jesus spoke of his impending death, arguing that these were later “Christianizations” of the Jewish Jesus. Remember *The Jesus Seminar* has rewritten the NT and removed passages that they did not believe would fit their concept of the type of person Jesus was.

But the conception of the Messiah, as one who would suffer, has more precedent in the OT than has commonly been recognized by scholars of *The Jesus Seminar*. Really, these scholars are the first to significantly promote such an idea. This means that except in a few seed thoughts, the concept that the Messiah would not be One Who would suffer is relatively new. New thoughts are often promoted but are not always substantiated by Scripture.

Even though many “scholars” might not agree with me, the concept of One who would come and suffer is found very early in Scripture. Genesis 3:15 indicates that the seed of woman (Isa. 7:14; Mic. 5:3; Matt. 1:23 25; Luke 1:34, 35; Gal. 4:4; 1 Tim. 2:15) would be dealt a blow to His heel. Of course the same passage indicates that the seed of woman would deal a crushing blow to the serpent.

But this is simply the first of many passages that reveal a Suffering Servant or Messiah who was to come. An examination of passages such as Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Daniel 9:1-19, Zechariah chapter’s 11 and 13, as well as a number of other OT passages, indicate that the concept of a suffering Messiah was not simply a Christianized concept, but was rather a part of the eternal plan of God.

*John F. Board*  
*Elizabethtown, KY*