



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we again want to highlight the important teaching of the inspiration of Scripture. Too many today lightly regard the Bible (our title for Scripture that comes from God). Consider

the evidence below regarding the amazing claims of inspiration that flowed from the pages of Scripture.

Both Testaments provide evidence of the divine origin of Scripture. Phrases such as "God spoke," "Thus says the LORD," "The Word of the LORD came" are used over and over again by the writers of Scripture (according to some scholars, more than thirty-eight hundred times). It is said that God will be with the mouth of Moses (Ex 4:14-16) and Moses will be as God to Pharaoh (7:1). The Decalogue is called "the writing of God" (32:16), having been produced by "the finger of God" (31:18). David declares, "The spirit of the Lord speaks through me; his message is on my lips" (2 Sam 23:2) In Jeremiah we read: "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth" (1:9).

In the New Testament, the claim is made that "no prophecy ever came by the inspiration of man, but men brought along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Pet 1:21). Even more clear is 2 Timothy 3:16-17: "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." Other New Testament passages that imply inspired writing include Hebrews 3:7, 9:8 and Revelation 1:1-3. We read that the Spirit of God "spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old" (Lk 1:70; cf. Acts 1:16; 28:25) and that the apostles speak in words that the Holy Ghost teaches (1 Cor 2:13). The Scriptures are called God's utterances or God's oracles (Rom 3:2).

It is hard to study Scripture and come away from that study with any conclusion other than that God revealed His Word came from Him. May we treat the Word of God with the respect it deserves.

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A LOOK BACK

Seeing that this year marks 50 years in this building I thought we might look back at some of the items recorded in our bulletin *The Caller*. I thought of this last week and wished I had thought of it earlier. I hope you enjoy the "Look Back."

In Volume VI No.37 of *The Caller* dated September 21, 1967 the front page article was entitled "Off to a Good Start." A couple of sentences from that article are included here: "Services were conducted in the new building on North 31-W for the first time last Sunday. Attendance was excellent for the day with 178 in Bible Classes, 260 in Morning Worship, and 152 present for Evening Worship. We are off to a good start. Let's make the most of it. The new opportunities we enjoy increase our responsibility. Our ultimate objective is the salvation of men."

Attention Ladies! The Ladies Bible Class will resume its fall meeting in October. The meetings will be conducted on Thursday Mornings.

In Volume VI No. 38 dated September 28, 1967 we read: Last Sunday, September 24, 1967, must take its place in the history of the Elizabethtown Church of Christ as an outstanding day...there was record attendance 213 Bible Class and 330 for Morning Worship. Bro. Adron Doran presented an excellent lesson in which he challenged the church to continue doing its best.

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — A City Mentioned But Once
Luke 7:11-18**

**P.M. — Word Study
Exodus 10:24-26**

FOCUS ON GOD

“Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man (meaning humans), in whom there is no help.” Psalm 146:3 (KJV)

We need to take our eyes off people. Why? The reason we need to take our eyes off of people is that people are limited, but God is not. God can use people for His purposes, but don't focus on people. Let your eyes be on Jesus, and God, not the people He uses to His glory. When you look up to people instead of God, you will lose focus. Remember that people will only disappoint you.

Abraham was almost disappointed when Lot abandoned him, but God said to him, “Look from where you are.” In other words, God was saying, “Don't be disappointed. Don't pay attention to him.” Look to God! Understand that people will always disappoint you.

Yes, it is good to thank God for the people He has brought into your life. You should celebrate the goodness of God upon their lives, but never forget that they are not your source. God is your source. God is good!

The truth is that every good gift and every perfect gift comes from Him. The best of men are still men, and they are limited. People are limited by death. Even if they are sincere and have the genuine intent to help you, they may die, fall sick, or go bankrupt before they are able to do so.

Others may be limited by a doctor's report, by ill health, by a natural disaster, by an economic decline, or by the loss of power or a position. You may know a medical specialist who is not able to help you with your ill health. But with God and our spiritual health, He will never fail us. We can know that our good spiritual health will allow us to live with God eternally in Heaven.

We must understand as we try to reach out to others that we as humans are limited. We must seek that all we do in this life is done to shine our lights so that such can bring glory to God (Matthew 5:13-16). Remember that Jesus taught in verse 16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Let us point others to God and Christ so that they are not brought down by our human weaknesses.

Pointing others to God means that we utilize the power He has given us to glorify Him to others. He has left us his written message in Scripture. Let us always remember to use what God has left us to teach others and point them to Christ.

We can know today that you will never be disappointed as you keep your eyes focused on God. His spiritual promises shall come to pass in your life, and everyone who sees you will come to acknowledge that you are one who follows God—not man.

*John F. Board
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