



# The Caller

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## Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to focus on our need to not forget what is first and foremost in our efforts to teach others. Though we often take time in this section of *The Caller* to provide a

defense for what we believe, and this is necessary, we would never want to forget the power found in the main message of the Gospel of Christ. We will continue, as we do from time to time, to give a defense for the Faith, but for this week I want us to consider the power in the Gospel.

Although apologetics is a valuable tool in evangelism—a vital tool at times—the gospel of Christ is what people must ultimately hear in order to be saved (Rom. 1:16). It is wrong to assume that every unbeliever harbors intellectual objections to Christianity. For this reason, not every teaching situation will require an apologetics defense. In a number of teaching situations, we can simply begin with the study of Scripture.

Always try to start a teaching encounter with the gospel. If the unbeliever responds to the gospel, forget apologetics and continue teaching them what they already accept—God's Word. Sometimes though it is not possible to start with the gospel because a person will not accept God's Word as the standard by which we are judged. By all means, at those times employ your knowledge of Christian evidences to promote a trust in Scripture.

The goal of apologetics is to pave the way for a presentation of the gospel. In this sense, apologetics is "pre-evangelism." It identifies and removes intellectual obstacles that hinder someone from considering the gospel message.

So again, *Confidence Corner* plays an important role in teaching. Let us remember though, the ultimate goal of all apologetics is to lead individuals to an acceptance of Jesus Christ and the saving power of his Gospel. If we teach Christian Evidences but do not promote the ultimate message of salvation from the One we strive to produce belief in, we have failed in our overall task.

jfb

## A LOOK BACK

Our ladies in Tuesday class might find paragraph #2 familiar. I had no idea this was in *The Caller* when we began our study of Jesus as the Master Teacher. Continuing our theme of "A Look Back" the following is an article that appeared in *The Caller* November 30, 1967 (Vol. 6 No. 46):

### I Want To Be a Worker For the Lord

The bringing of a soul to Jesus is the highest achievement possible to a human life. Most members of the church will not admit to hesitancy when it comes to winning souls. Ever glaring, though, is the Old Testament truth: "He that winneth souls is wise" (Prov.11:30).

Our Lord taught publically only sixteen times. He was the Master Teacher who taught throngs but He was a patient counselor and personal evangelist. Outstanding in His ministry are the conversations with the woman of Samaria, with Nicodemus, the rich young ruler, the Syro-Phoenician woman, and Zacchaeus.

I must recognize that I am a tool that God has of reaching others. And no life is insignificant which is endless. The calls that I have to make this week are eternal in significance. Don't forget that the visitors to our services, the person in our Bible school classes that you were assigned to call upon are prospective Christians. They will thank you the first million years in eternity for taking an interest in them. Let's not be content with the church going and sermon listening only.

—Via Bulletin, Tulsa, Oklahoma

## Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Christ in the Psalms  
Luke 24:44-48**

**P.M. — Continuing Steadfastly  
Acts 2:41-42**

# Sin

Sin—it makes me sick! How can three seemingly small letters bring such devastation to the world? The ruined lives that sin has left in its wake—the destruction of families—the separation from God!

It seems to be safe to write that of those reading this article, most, if not all, despise sin. Yet not a one of us has overcome sin completely. Sure we try and battle temptation but at some point, we fall prey to the wiles of the Devil. We cannot say as Christians that we have no sin (1 John 1:8). But we can be thankful that as Christians we have the hope through the blood of Christ that keeps on cleansing us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

I guess though that God has been very clear to us that sin is real and it is a real part of our lives. Consider the following information from Bible.org regarding the number of words used in the Greek NT to convey the concept of sin to mankind:

“The thirty-three words for sin consider sin from every angle, even different forms of the same root word not being used exactly with the same emphasis. One of the most important words is *ἁμαρτία* and its kindred forms, in which sin is viewed as *missing the mark*, “coming short of the glory of God.” In *ἁμαρτία* we see sin as *transgression*, characterizing sin as *a breaking of moral law and a turning from the perfect will of God*. In *ἁμαρτία* sin is viewed as a *fall*. In *ἁμαρτία* there is a picture of sin in the light of *failing to listen* to God, with open and flagrant disobedience being the result of this failure. The verb *ἁμαρτάνω* and its kindred words point to sin as *being unrighteous, unjust, void of God’s approval, and contrary to the holy character of God*. *ἁμαρτάνω* defines sin as *rebelling against God, open and active sinning in defiance of God and His judgment*. Another word for sin, not found in verb form, is *νόμος* which considers sin as being *lawless, in spite of and contrary to law*. *νόμος* traces sin as springing from ignorance as well as the resulting blindness to spiritual truth, combined in the definition, *to err*. *νόμος* views sin as a defeat, and when used in the passive means *to be defeated, overcome*, pointing to the need of the power of God for victory. Finally, *ἁμαρτία* pictures sin as *utter corruption, depravity, iniquity*, which is to be subjected to the righteous judgment of God.”

God has definitely provided information, and even much more has warned mankind about sin.

One last thought that I would like to consider to make us soberly think about sin is the price that was paid for sin. The only One who kept law perfectly—Who lived without sin impacting His life, is the very One who paid the price for sin. Jesus bore our sin in His body on the tree (cross). Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!

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