



# The Caller

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## Confidence Corner

John F. Board

In this week's Confidence Corner we will provide information for those who seek to investigate the topic of whether the Bible we have today is reliable. This is obviously a vital

question regarding the Christian faith. If our source document is not reliable, we cannot have confidence in any conclusions drawn from it. If, on the other hand, what we have are "Holy Words long preserved for our walk in this world," then we have the greatest of confidence!

One relatively small monograph (it could be perhaps termed a booklet) is *F. F. Bruce's The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* This is a great booklet for those who have questions regarding the reliability of the New Testament Documents. Indeed Bruce does provide a very convincing argument for the historical accuracy of the canon of the New Testament. This booklet can be purchased for under \$10.00 and is only 120 pages of text.

Another companion work, though not nearly as brief, is K. A. Kitchen's *On The Reliability of the Old Testament*. Though more pricey (\$36.00 paperback) and much more lengthy of a read (500 pages of text), this is still an excellent book to help confirm your faith in the OT documents. Kitchen concludes at the end of his examination "In terms of general reliability—and much more could have been instanced than there was room for here—the Old Testament comes out remarkably well, so long as its writings and writers are treated fairly and evenhandedly, in line with independent data, open to all" (500).

Both of these works are more suited for those seeking deeper study in the topic of the reliability of the Bible. Christian Courier also has some excellent articles that will enhance your study.

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## Facing Temptation

Temptation—it is something we all will face. Even our Lord was not free from the temptation of Satan. So, what does this mean to us? How can we better battle temptation? I think a few things are key. The keyword I want to focus upon is "opponent."

First, we need to understand opponent # 1. This opponent is Satan or the Devil. In 1 Peter 5:8, we read that Satan is our adversary. An adversary is an opponent in a conflict, dispute, or contest. We need to realize that Satan is vying for our souls. He is an opponent to be respected. We need to be on guard against his wiles or tricks.

Second, there is another opponent we must recognize. That opponent is us. James warned that when we are tempted (which implies our first opponent the tempter, Satan) we are not tempted until we are drawn away by our own lusts and enticed. Did you catch that...we are first drawn away by our own lusts? What "lusts" do you have? Money, power, sexual temptation? Whatever it is, watch for it and don't allow your mind to go there, lest those lusts allow Satan to get his claws in you.

Lastly, and this may seem a little strange, but there is the opponent of past temptations. Just because we overcame a particular form of temptation in the past, doesn't mean we should rest on that victory. Remember the words of 1 Corinthians 10:12, "He that thinketh he stands take heed lest he fall." But also do not think if you have in the past fell prey to the same temptation numerous times that such means you cannot overcome it this time. You can through the power of God. Read His Word, pray and draw strength daily.

John F Board

## Sunday's Sermons:

**A. M. — Ye Are the Branches**  
*John 15:1-6*

**P. M. — Difficult Bible Questions**  
*2 Tim 2:14-15*

## Was An Innocent Man Executed?

Troy Davis was put to death by lethal injection a little over 8 years ago, for the 1989 murder of an off-duty police officer. He maintained his innocence until the end. He even convinced thousands he WAS INNOCENT. He did not convince the justice system. Davis was declared dead at 11:08 p.m. EDT, a prison official said.

His execution, which began at 10:53 p.m., came after a three-hour hold while the Supreme Court considered a late request for a stay. In the end, the court refused to stop the execution, despite calls for clemency from former President Jimmy Carter, Pope Benedict XVI, and others.

(Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44592285/ns/usnews-crimeandcourts/>)

Having been through the court system with friends who endured a very traumatic experience of a home invasion and the attempted abduction of their daughter, we saw first hand how the court system and news reports can be misleading, I am hesitant to try to even lend my opinion on this case. I was not present nor did I follow the facts of the case, so I am far from qualified to comment.

But there is an execution of an innocent man that I am qualified to address—not because of any expertise that I have, but because the written record of this event comes to me from men inspired by the Almighty God. Of course, I am speaking of Christ's crucifixion.

The Scriptures show Jesus was an innocent man. From John's statement in John 1:29 indicating that Jesus was the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world, to His life recorded on the pages of Scripture, we can see that Jesus did not deserve to die. The lamb of the OT was to be without spot or blemish; Jesus as the Lamb was sinless. His penalty was what we deserved to bear for our sins. You see Jesus' death was all a part of God's plan to redeem mankind (Acts 2:23; Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53; John 13). Even the Roman soldier who had carried out the crucifixion recognized that Jesus was the Son of God.

Was an innocent man executed in 2011? I have no way of knowing for certain regarding those events in Georgia. Regarding the event over 2000 years ago at Golgotha, I have no doubt—an innocent man was executed. Though Jesus did not receive a fair trial, ultimately His execution was the plan of Deity before the foundation of the world. Yes, the Godhead loved us enough to allow the innocent Son of God to die on behalf of sinful man. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son!

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