



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we will examine a few words from the Hebrew language that though they can be translated as a particular body part, also have other meanings when used in Scripture. As we have noted be-

fore, the Hebrew language has a much smaller vocabulary than does Koine Greek. This makes for a number of interesting nuances.

The first of the Hebrew terms that uses parts of the body metaphorically to describe emotion or thought process is the word often translated simply as "heart" (*leb/lev*). Though it is used of the physical heart (Exodus 28:29), sometimes it is used to indicate fear, regret, joy, comfort, love or anger (Psalm 27:3; Proverbs 19:3). It is also used of the human mind (Exodus 36:2 mind and heart are both *leb/lev*).

The Hebrew term for throat (*nephesh*) is often translated "life or soul." This word is sometimes used to describe deceit (Psalm 5:9), arrogance (Isaiah 3:16) or stubbornness (Psalm 75:5). Below I will attempt to show passages where the words mentioned above are used in different ways.

In Proverbs 6:16 the text literally states that there are seven things that are detestable to the LORD's (*nephesh*) "very being." Proverbs 16:30 notes that men do not despise a thief who steals to satisfy his hunger (*nephesh*—throat/hunger). Yet Proverbs 16:32 states that the adulterer lacks judgment and destroys himself (*nephesh*— his own life or soul). Back in verse 14 of this same chapter it states that the person who plans evil also has perversity in his soul (*leb/lev*— heart soul). Proverbs 16:32 again notes regarding the one who commits adultery, that he lacks good judgment (*leb/lev*-heart).

I think the passage above illustrates that there are various nuances to the Hebrew terms employed by the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. It is so interesting to me that in the New Testament, God's final revelation to mankind, He chose Koine Greek as the language. There is no more precise language known to mankind, past or present, which can compare to Koine Greek.

I am thankful to God to be able to look into His Word (Old Testament or New Testament) and learn the truths conveyed by each. May God bless us as we study and put into practice the teaching of His Word!

jfb

Thankful for the Blessing of Being a Preacher

Today is Monday morning! Many preachers take Monday as their day off. I have never done so as I feel such would set me off to a bad start to my week. You see, most often on a Sunday night I hit a low. I have taught Bible Class and preached two sermons and by the end of the night, my adrenaline is gone. The family knows Sunday night is definitely not a night to watch a Hallmark movie lest I get sent over the edge. Also each Sunday night I have the realization that though I have just finished a Bible Class and two sermons if the Lord wills, I will have the same ahead of me the next Sunday. On Sunday night at times, this can seem a little daunting.

But then Monday morning comes--I am refreshed as I realize that the Lord's mercies are renewed every morning. I am excited and recharged to think about the opportunity I have to study God's Word to prepare not only the lessons for next week but also to refine my Tuesday morning ladies Bible Class and my Wednesday night Bible study from the Old Testament. My God has granted unto me the greatest blessing a man could ask for--an opportunity to spend my life in study, application to my life, and proclamation of His Word. I am thankful to God for this great blessing!

I am also thankful to all of you who are a part of the congregation who support me in this work. My elders support sound doctrine as do the members. I have the greatest encouragement in knowing that the expectation of my leadership and membership is the proclamation of all the truths of God's Word. Outside of my relationship with my Lord and with my immediate family, my church family is my greatest gift from God.

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Trust in the Lord
Proverbs 3:5-6**

**P.M. — Faith
Hebrews 11:1-3**

Where Does the Time Go?

I don't know about you but this year went by more quickly than years past. I have no explanation for this phenomenon (I know, I know...but it really seemed to pass much more quickly this year). I joked on social media about a month ago about going to see fireworks for the 4th of July (and as we know, if the Lord does not return first it will be here before you know it). So that leaves me asking "where does the time go?"

For some, this is the very reason they argue that the second coming of Christ is not going to ever happen. Actually, in Peter's day, they were arguing the same thing. Imagine after less than 60 years giving up on the Lord's return. How sad such would be, but it is no less sad that people today have given up on the 2nd coming of Christ.

I beg you not to allow the continual passing of time with things appearing to remain the same to cause you to fail to believe in and prepare for the 2nd coming of Christ. How sad it would be for someone to prepare themselves most of their life for the return of Christ only to give up because "they have been waiting and the Lord had let them down." We must remain steadfast in our belief that Jesus will come again.

On the flip side, there are those who are convinced that the Lord's return is imminent. These are the constant sign seekers who prognosticate the coming of the Lord because of how our world is deteriorating. They predict Jesus' coming is near. Now, this is nothing new. In my life, I have known of at least 4 people who predicted the end of the world and thus the 2nd coming of Christ. Whether 1976, 1988, 2000, or just a few years ago, fear is instilled in people. I remember in 1988 that many people sold all that they had and went to a mountain to await the Lord's return. Others believed so much He would return then that they went out and charged up enormous balances on credit cards thinking they would never have to repay them (I always wondered how the Lord, if He had come would react to His followers who would do this...nonetheless).

So friends here is my point. Just because much time has passed, such does not take away from the truthfulness of the fact that Jesus is coming again. Also, just because people try to predict His coming, don't be fooled. What Jesus desires from all of us is simply a belief that He is coming again and a constant vigilance in living our lives for Him so that when He does return, we can go home with Him for eternity. Truly being found faithful when He returns is the only thing that matters--and speaking of being concerned about time--we surely don't want to face eternity in a place of torment. If we are with the Lord or in Hell, there will not be time, only eternity.

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