



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXV January 18, 2009 No. 2

Confidence Corner

John F. Board

This past year we have used *Confidence Corner* in an effort to confirm our confidence (hence our faith) in the Bible. This year let us build on that study by examining how the inspired New Testament writers applied the passages from the inspired Old Testament writers. As we examine God's word more closely

our knowledge, faith, and therefore our confidence, will grow (Romans 10:17).

I recently came up with this idea for *Confidence Corner* while looking at some books online. After doing some of my own study I found that there are many numerous OT passages that are referenced in the NT (26 from Genesis alone). Our study will consider passages in the order they appear in the OT based upon our English translations.

If we were to begin reading the OT in the book of Genesis, the first OT passage we would read that is directly referenced by a NT writer is Genesis 1:27. Matthew references this passage in 19:4 and Mark in 10:6. All of these passages convey the idea of God creating mankind into two distinct beings—male and female...and I would go one step further and say that the reason God chose the words "male" and "female" over "man" and "woman" is because they indicate God's original and only intent for the fulfillment of the sexual relationship (male and female in the marriage union).

I find this information quite interesting. The passages in the NT are definitely used by Jesus in the context of the discussion of marriage and proper sexual relationships. Jesus quotes an OT passage where the Holy Spirit chose not the generic Hebrew words for man and woman, but two specific terms that, without giving details, definitely indicate a sexual connotation (*zakhar* is used for male and *neqebhah* is used for female). The LXX translation of Genesis 1:27 employs the same Greek words that Matthew and Mark record the Lord using to describe marriage. These Greek words seem to be distinct words used to convey a sexual connotation as well.

In the Greek, instead of the more generic *aner* (fellow, man, husband, sir) the word is *arsen*. *Arsen* seems to bear more of a sexual connotation and a concept of the counterpart God intended for the female in the sexual relationship He sanctions. When the Greeks spoke of homosexuality, they referred to it as *arseno koites*. In Romans 1:27 when Paul spoke of *men* leaving the natural use of the woman and burning in their lust one toward another—*men* with *men*, in all three instances of the word "men" in our English translations, the Greek word is not *aner* but *arsen*. Also the word for woman in this passage seems to be a more sexually specific term *thelu*.

Why have I written all of this? About a month ago Lisa Miller, the religious editor for *Newsweek* wrote an article in which she claimed the Bible actually endorses homosexuality. From the NT record of Jesus' use of the OT passage (Genesis 1:27), along with a multitude of other evidence, it is clear that God has always intended the only sexual relationship to be shared to be that which He sanctions between a male and a female only in marriage (Heb. 13:4).

JFB

Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

Taylor Christian Camp News

I received a letter from Mark Sexton this week with some information about camp. It's only January, but summer camp at Taylor Christian will be here before

you know it. For any who wish to be on staff this year please see me to obtain a staff application. Staff is limited to 40 people so we can accommodate as many campers as possible. There will be a camp staff meeting on January 31st at 5:00 PM eastern time at the Corinth congregation in Portland, TN. The bus will leave the building at 3:00 PM. As many as can need to attend this meeting. Pizza will be served that night, and Mark needs a count of how many will be in attendance so the correct amount of pizza can be ordered. Please let me know if you will be attending.

Important Dates to Remember for 2009

- February 27-March 1 - CYC in Gatlinburg
- March 21 - Ladies Day w/ Janie Gallagher
- April 12-15 - Gospel Meeting w/ Phil Sanders
- June 12-13 - Diana Singing
- June 14-19 - Taylor Christian Camp
- July 5-10 - Horizon's Senior Week
- July 12-17 - Horizon's Junior Week
- September 11-12 - Diana Singing
- October 16-18 - Gospel Meeting w/ Dave Miller

Junior and Senior High School
Monthly Devotionals
3rd Sunday night of each month following services

Additional dates will be added as the year progresses.

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. - *Questions About Becoming a Christian*
Acts 11:25-26

P.M. - *Newsweek: "Woman-Made" View of the Bible and Homosexuality*
Romans 1:24-32

Happiness According to God

In today's world many search for happiness. Most who search for happiness attempt to find it in the things of this world. God has provided an answer to those who are searching for true happiness, in part, in the book of Ecclesiastes.

According to tradition, Solomon, the son of David wrote the book of Ecclesiastes. Although the book no where bears his name, the author refers to himself as the "son of David" and as "king in Jerusalem." The writer also claims to have great wisdom and wealth (2:1-11). These descriptions surely would fit Solomon after God had granted an answer to his request/prayer (1 Kings 3:3-15).

While he was faithfully walking with God, Solomon is believed to have written much of Proverbs (1:1 and 1 Kings 4:32) and the Song of Solomon (1:1). In contrast, many believe Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes in the tenth century near the end of his life, after years of unfaithfulness to the Lord. Although there is no historical record that Solomon repented of his unfaithfulness, the book of Ecclesiastes suggests that he did.

Solomon surely was one who had the ability in all areas to search for happiness "under the sun." In this thorough search, the man with the greatest possibility of finding happiness here on the earth (under the sun), came to believe that such a search was vanity (absurdity, frustration, futility, or nonsense). Man could not find happiness "under the sun" in the pursuit of things here on the earth.

Solomon **did not** indicate that man would not have to be involved in life "under the sun." Obviously, man must labor, provide, etc. for himself and his family. Man must be involved in the struggles of this world. How does Solomon then indicate that man can find happiness if he has to be involved in all these things "under the sun?"

Solomon found that the key was, although we must be involved in life here "under the sun," we should not make **our life**—under the sun. Rather true happiness is found as Jesus noted, not in laying up for ourselves treasures here upon the earth, but in realizing that we need to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven. Why? Because Jesus knew that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also (Matt 6:19-21)!

Solomon recorded the answer to his search for happiness. The way to happiness is not found in searching "under the sun." All of the things "under the sun" are vanity. The only path to true happiness is found in God. Again hear Solomon's conclusion:

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

(Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

John F. Board
Elizabethtown, Ky.

News and Notes

ROSA LEE NORMAN remains in Hardin Memorial, Room 516, with pneumonia. **LORI CLACK** underwent gallbladder surgery last Friday. **JOYCE PACK** began five days of radiation treatments in Louisville Wednesday. **CHRIS GOODIN** is scheduled for total knee replacement January 20 at Ireland Army Hospital.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	J Martin
Neil Burden	Carl Mercer
Elonda Crafton	Tom Morgan
Dana Fox	Nathan Nash
Howard Gardner	Joyce Pack
Faye Guess	Grace Speer
Nellie Hart	Gene Stough
Roy Johnson	Barbara Underwood
David & Ruby Keister (TX)	Lonnie Underwood
Kent Lane	Payton Walker
Diane Lewis	Lawrence Wells
	Jim & Dyrena White

Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers:

Dave Fulbright, Robert E. Wooten, Justin Gardner, Kelly Leverett, George Edwards, Joe Betterton, Myles Brothers, Dale Martin, Terry Turner, Cameron Ponder, Brett Fleming, Mike Chandler, Nathan McClain, Ronald O'Bryant, Roni Reed, Hector Meza, Aaron Wellman, Michael Morrow, Israel Fox, Barry Barclay, Brian Wilkins, Phillip Moore

Additional Prayer List: Charlene Akridge, Weita Anderson, Delsie Axton, Curtis Bradley, Sue Cantrell, Royce Goodman, Renee Green, Ginell Harris, Don Hatcher, Louie Hodge, Wanda Hogan, Mike Lane, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, John Pawley, Joe & Patsy Richter, David & Geneva Risinger, Carlos Smith, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Jim Thomas, Juanita Tillery, Kevin Weaver, Kendell Whisenant, Sondra Woosley

Addresses

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Attention Super Saints

Senior Saints attending the Freed Hardeman Bible Lectureship will leave Monday, February 2, and return Thursday, February 5. If you have any questions, please see Gene or Karen Stough.

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 1/18/09 Canned pork'n'beans

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **EVANGELISM UNIVERSITY** in Savannah, Tennessee, **January 16-18**, for our high school youth. The bus will leave the building at 3:30 p.m. Friday afternoon.
- **YOUTH DEVOTIONAL**, Sunday night, **January 18**, at the Lackey home.
- **SINGING AT ATRIA**, Sunday afternoon, **January 25**, at 3:00 p.m.
- **TAYLOR CHRISTIAN CAMP STAFF MEETING**, Saturday, **January 31**, at 5:00 p.m. at Corinth Church of Christ in Portland, TN.
- **FHU BIBLE LECTURESHIP**, **February 1-6**, in Henderson, TN.
- **SUPER BOWL PARTY**, Sunday night, **February 1**, at the Nowland home.
- **5TH GRADE & UNDER FAMILY GAME NIGHT**, Saturday, **February 7**, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the South Wing. Please bring your favorite board games and finger foods. See Ken or Monica Bybee if any questions.
- **SWEETHEART DINNER**, Saturday, **February 21**, in the South Wing.
- **E-TOWN LADIES DAY**, Saturday, **March 21**, with Janie Gallagher from Fairmont, West Virginia. Theme: Vessels of Clay.

Thank You

I want to thank all of you for the many prayers you offered for me and the love and concern shown to me before, during and after my surgery. Also for the many cards you sent me. It is so great to have Christian friends.

In Christian love, Joyce Pack

Thank you for the wonderful cards and the food basket, too. Both were fulfilling with a spirit of love.

Mary Walker & Trey Clark

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers, visits and food I received since my last hospitalization. I appreciate each act of kindness so much.

In Christian love, Elonda Crafton

OUR RECORD FOR

January 11, 2009

Sunday Bible Study	177
Sunday Morning Assembly	238
Sunday Evening Assembly	157
Wednesday Bible Study	110
Ladies Bible Class	14
Contribution (Budget -- \$6,783)	\$7,256

Elder/Coordinator for January
Mike Pence

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: Name the three arks that are mentioned in the Bible.

Last Week's Bible Question: Who is the King who became a herbivore and began to eat grass? The correct answer is Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel 4:33. Those who correctly answered the Bible Question are Rick Eiler, Kay Thomason, Edna Ashlock, Joyce Pack, Mary Walker, Betty Bray, Katy Watson, and Bloria Taylor.

Please write down your answer and give it to Ray, put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to ray.pack@kvnet.org by Tuesday afternoon. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class	10:30 A.M.
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Wednesday

Evening Bible Class	7:00 P.M.
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Rick Whobrey	769-9267

Ministers:

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Ray Pack	982-3460
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Secretary:

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.ETOWNCOFC.ORG

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

1. Genesis 20-22, Matthew 7
2. Genesis 23-24; Matthew 8
3. Genesis 25-26; Matthew 9:1-17
4. Genesis 27-28; Matthew 9:18-38
5. Genesis 29-30; Matthew 10:1-23
6. Genesis 31-32; Matthew 10:24-42
7. Genesis 33-35; Matthew 11

Jan. 16-18 — Evangelism University, TN
Jan. 18 — Youth Devo, Lackeys
Jan. 25 — Singing at Atria
Feb. 1-6 — FHU Lectures
Feb. 1 — Super Bowl Party, Nowlands
Feb. 7 — 5th Grade & Under Family Game Night
Feb. 21 — Sweetheart Dinner
Mar. 21 — Ladies Day

PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Elizabethtown Church of Christ
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