



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXV October 4, 2009 No. 39

Confidence Corner

John F. Board

This year in Confidence Corner we are examining how the inspired New Testament writers applied the passages from the inspired Old Testament writers so that our knowledge, faith, and therefore our confidence, will

grow (Romans 10:17).

Last week we examined the first part of Isaiah 53:9; this week we will look at the last part of the verse which is alluded to by Peter in I Peter 2:22 and John in I John 3:5. Isaiah 53:9 reads "*And they made his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death; although he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth*" (ASV 1901).

The passage in the OT addresses the fact that the reason Jesus was exalted by God (in that he was buried with the rich rather than the wicked) was because of the fact that he was sinless. Consider the words of James D. Bales in his work *Of Whom Speaketh the Prophet?*—He writes: "What man had designed (to bury Him with criminals) was thwarted by God. The reason it was thwarted was that his honorable burial was a testimony to His innocence, i. e., "although (margin: because) he had done no violence, neither was any deceit found in His mouth" (p.78).

The passage in I Peter is one of many allusions that Peter makes to Isaiah 53. Peter uses the passage mainly to encourage Christians who are suffering (as a result of their master/employer) to recognize that Christ suffered, leaving us the example to endure persecutions.

Considering that Christ was tempted in all the ways we are tempted (Hebrews 4:15), and that He was tempted during the most trying time ever known (as he bore our sin in His body on the tree), yet he did not even sin with His tongue (the most difficult to tame, James 3), our love and amazement of the Lord ought to grow exceedingly. Though he could have called 10,000 angels, He died alone for **you** and **me!**

JFB

2009 Youth Rally October 9-10

If I Had But One...

Keynote Speaker

Andy Robison
of Washington, West Virginia

Schedule of Events

Friday Night

6:00-7:30 - Registration

7:30-8:00 - Singing

8:00-9:00 - Lesson (Andy Robison)

9:00-10:30 - Bonfire

Saturday

8:30-9:30 - Donuts/Registration

9:30-10:00 - Welcome/Singing

10:00-10:30-Keynote(Andy Robison)

10:30-10:45 - Break

10:45-11:30 - 1st Class Session

11:30-1:00 - Lunch (Provided)

1:00-1:15 - Singing

1:15-2:00 - 2nd Class Session

2:00-2:15 - Break

2:15-3:00 - Keynote (Andy Robison)

3:00-??? - Closing Thoughts

For more information call the church office at
(270) 765-6446.

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — Prayer
Luke 18:1-8

P.M. — The Tongue
James 3:1-12

Why People Quit Church

By Wayne Jackson

The following article has been edited for space. The article in its original format can be found at:
<http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1472-why-people-quit-church> jfb

Church leaders have long been interested in why so many drift away from faithful service to the Lord. Jesus summarized the matter in his parable of the sower. The causes he listed are: the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of wealth, distracted desires for worldly things, and carnal pleasure (Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:18; Luke 8:14). This list could be expanded from numerous other texts (e.g., the ingestion of false teaching [cf. Romans 16:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10]), but for the moment this will suffice.

Several months ago, LifeWay Christian Resources, did a survey of 469 adults who formerly were “church” people but had left their respective groups. The results of this study are interesting.

(1) Many of them “quit church” because they “simply got too busy.” Too busy to honor their Creator; too busy to serve him who died for them; too busy to go to heaven?

(2) Others faded away, they said, because “family and home responsibilities prevented” their continued connection with church. Is not serving God the most important family and home responsibility? Is putting food in a child’s mouth and clothes on his back more crucial than nurturing his soul toward heaven? The failure to sort out one’s prime obligations is one of the most significant gauges of spiritual foolishness.

(3) A considerable number complained that they had become disenchanted with church leaders or members. This is what one might call the PTB syndrome (“passing the buck”). Some do not like the elders’ decisions, others find the preaching boring, and there is the complaint that the deacons don’t minister to their needs. There also is the common gripe that they are not being included in the church’s activities. Of course, they never volunteer for service and usually complain when asked to do something.

(4) Not a few charge that church members are judgmental and hypocritical, etc. Never mind that these are judging those whom they contend are judgmental. And they never boycott any place on the basis of hypocrisy except the church!

(5) Others may experience a job move that sends them into an isolated area where there are no Christians. If one does not have the stability to survive in a community where there is no church, or if they cannot summon the courage to faithfully serve God alone, attempting to teach others, he or she would be far better off finding a new job that would facilitate Christian faithfulness. No job is worth the loss of one’s soul (Matthew 16:26).

In more than a half-century of service to Christ, I cannot recall having seen a reprobate leave the fellowship of the church and take personal responsibility for his apostasy. He always plays the blame game: “It’s not my fault; they did it to me!” Such rationalizations are hypocritical subterfuge on the part of dishonest people who refuse to acknowledge their own problems.

The ultimate truth of the matter is this: there are **no valid reasons for forsaking Christ**—only lame excuses! And Jesus made it very plain: excuses will carry no weight in the day of reckoning (see Luke 14:18ff).

News and Notes

JANICE HARDIN was released Monday from Jewish Hospital following knee replacement surgery last week. **FLORENCE STULL**, Wilma Stull's mother-in-law, was admitted to the hospital in Pennsylvania over the weekend. **DOROTHA WEAVER** began radiation and chemotherapy Monday. **BARBARA UNDERWOOD** will have a liver biopsy next week.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Carl & Delsie Axton	Tom Morgan
Betty Addington	Andy Nevins
Neil Burden	Pansy Sells
Dana Fox	Grace Speer
Howard Gardner	Oleta Stranahan
Faye Guess	Kay Thomason
Roy Johnson	Barbara Underwood
Kent Lane	Lonnie Underwood
Diane Lewis	Dorotha Weaver
J Martin	Lawrence Wells
Carl Mercer	Jim White

Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers: Robert E. Wooten, Kelly Leverett, Korry Leverett (Iraq), Joe Betterton, Terry Turner, Cameron Ponder, Brett Fleming, Nathan McClain, Ronald O'Bryant, Roni Reed, Hector Meza, Aaron Wellman, Michael Morrow, Israel Fox, Barry Barclay, Brian Wilkins, Nathan Miller, Cody Hutson, Dan Sloat, Gregory Stack

Additional Prayer List: Yvonne Barclay, John D. Board, Priscilla Boyd, John Bryant, Porsche Bumpuss, Sue Cantrell, Laura Carson, Michael Clymer, Elizabeth Cooper, Susan Dyer, Doug Edwards, Brenda Gaddie, Joe Gattis, Jesse Goff, Royce Goodman, Renee Green, Ryan Hanson, Ginell Harris, Don Hatcher, Louie Hodge, Betty Jabrocki, John Kavanaugh, Becky King, Mike Lane, Delbert Lasley, Lina Lee, Buddy Logsdon, Mary Montgomery, Dorsey Morrow, Robert Moyers, Joe Pawley, John Pawley, Rob & Kim Pell, Willie Pence, Judy Phillips, Steven Pitcock, Joe & Patsy Richter, Herlon Selby, Carlos Smith, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Juanita Tillery, Kevin Weaver, Kirsten Webb, Kendell & Margaret Whisenant, Virginia Wiser, Sondra Woosley

Help Needed

Our youth rally is fast approaching, and we are in need of volunteers. A sign up list is posted on the bulletin board in the south hallway for those interested in volunteering their time and/or cooking skills. If any questions, please see Terry Nowland.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1. Ethan Wilkins	16. Mary Woodring
2. Payton Walker	Kelly Leverett
3. Joe Brothers	18. Holly Walker
4. Brenna Board	20. Jeffrey Allen
6. Zachary Cruse	21. Shirley DeVore
9. Ruby Woosley	22. Donna Pence
Trey Clark	29. Israel Fox
10. Samantha Clack	Quincy Barclay
13. Jane Curkendall	30. Lisa Treadway
Lyn Long	31. Alen Fox
14. Edna Ashlock	Rosa O'Bryant
15. Susan Pawley	

Anniversaries

John & Dorotha Weaver	October 3
Jason & Misty Dunn	October 8
Ken & Monica Bybee	October 22

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Amanda Dunleavy & Barry Barclay Wedding**, Saturday, **October 3**, at 2:00 p.m. here at the building. The congregation is invited.
- **TUESDAY LUNCH, October 6**, at noon, in the South Wing
- **YOUTH RALLY, October 9-10**, with Andy Robison, from Washington, West Virginia. Theme: *If I Had But One*. . . Continue to invite your friends to attend.
- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday, **October 12**, at 10:30 a.m.
- **FALL GOSPEL MEETING, October 16-18**, with Dave Miller of Apologetics Press. Sermons will be presented on "The Silencing of God: The Dismantling of America's Christian Heritage." Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Pantry Items of the Week

Week of 10/04/09—Canned pork'n'beans, peanut butter and soup

OUR RECORD FOR

September 27, 2009

Sunday Bible Study	153
Sunday Morning Assembly	217
Sunday Evening Assembly	158
Wednesday Bible Study	112
Ladies Bible Class	18
Contribution (Budget -- \$6,783)	\$7,182

Elder/Coordinator for October
Rick Whobrey

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: Under the Law of Moses, what kind of wood was forbidden to be used in building defenses even in time of war?

Last Week's Bible Question: What king desecrated the tombs of Bethel by burning the bones on an altar? The correct answer is Josiah, 2 Kings 23:16. Those who correctly answered the Bible Question this week are Mary Walker, Katy Watson, Betty Bray, Joyce Pack, Rick Eiler, Bloria Taylor and Edna Ashlock.

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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Secretary:

Kim Whobrey 769-9267

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Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.ETOWNCOFC.ORG

Daily Bible Reading Schedule
1. Isaiah 19-21; Ephesians 2
2. Isaiah 22-23; Ephesians 3
3. Isaiah 24-26; Ephesians 4
4. Isaiah 27-28; Ephesians 5
5. Isaiah 29-30; Ephesians 6
6. Isaiah 31-33; Philippians 1
7. Isaiah 34-36; Philippians 2

Oct. 3—Dunleavy/Barclay Wedding
Oct. 6 — Tuesday Lunch
Oct. 9-10 — E-town Youth Rally
Oct. 12 — Church Workers Workshop
Oct. 16-18 — Gospel Meeting w/Dave Miller
Oct. 18 — Congregational Potluck
Nov. 13-14 — Ladies Retreat, White Mills

PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Elizabethtown Church of Christ
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