



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXVI April 18, 2010 No. 15

Confidence Corner

John F. Board

Early in our column we stressed the importance of “being ready always to give an answer (defense) to everyone that asks us a reason of the hope that lies within us, with meekness and fear”(1 Peter 3:15). Perhaps one of the most important areas that

we as Christians should be able to provide an answer is in the area of salvation.

So many today in the religious world have varying ideas regarding how God saves man. One thing is for certain, you cannot have many ideas about how one is saved and all of them be correct. God is not a God of confusion; implied in His teaching is clear instruction regarding how God wants man to be saved. Sadly mankind, in his wisdom, has often muddied the waters.

Well how can one possibly have confidence in what God desires of mankind in the realm of salvation? Is it arrogant to claim we can have confidence that we are saved and others are lost? You see the key lies in the fact that it is not us as individuals making the determination of what one must do for salvation—it is God through His Word revealing what it is that He expects of man. When we view the subject of salvation in such a way, we recognize that we can have a confidence in our salvation—not based upon man’s wisdom—but based upon following what our Father in heaven has revealed.

Look again at all the Bible teaches about mankind being pleasing to God. The salvation provided by God came to people of different dispensations in various ways. Today as Christians we can examine all that the NT reveals in the realm of salvation. We can read Romans 10:17; Jn 3:16; Lk 13:3-5; Mt 10:32-33; Romans 10:10; Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; 1 Cor 15:58; and Rev. 2:10, and be assured that we have done what the Lord has the right to demand in the realm of salvation.

You see our confidence in our salvation lies not in mankind's wisdom but is rather based upon the promises of the One who is Faithful. Confidence in our salvation—can there be anything more important?

jfb

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

John F. Board

Tel Dan is a beautiful mound in northern Galilee, at the foot of Mt. Hermon. In 1993, archaeologists excavating at Tel Dan (biblical Dan) found a fragment of a stela (inscribed stone) in the remains of a city wall that Byant Wood calls “one of the most important

discoveries in the annals of Biblical archaeology” (*Bible and Spade* 6 no. 4 1993) The stone fragment seems to have been from a victory stela erected at Dan by a conquering Aramean (Syrian) army.

According to Shanks, when the Israelites eventually reclaimed the city, they destroyed the stela and used its fragments in various structures (*BAR* 20 2). Professor Avraham Biran, the archaeologist heading the excavation, has dated the stela to the first half of the ninth century B.C. In 1994 two more fragments were found. When pieced together the fragments appear to tell of Jehu’s killing of Jehoram (king of the house of Israel) and Ahaziah (king of the house of David).

The text appears to be written in early Aramaic. It is similar to the script found on pottery dating to the ninth century B.C.E. The stela does not indicate authorship. Although only parts of other names are definite lines 8 and 9 explicitly mention the “king of Israel” and the “House of David,” which the conquering army defeated.

These statements are important for several reasons. Some feel this is the only extant, extra biblical document that “unquestionably” mentions the name of David. Others see the name of David as well in the Moabite stone or Mesha Stela (as it is also known) which we already considered in earlier months. Another very interesting aspect of the Dan Stela is that the name of David appears in the familiar formula or phrase “House of David.” If the 9th century B.C. date is correct, this could confirm the biblical employment of this phrase (1 Kings 12:19, 14:8, Isaiah 7:2). There are as well other elements of the Tel Dan stela that illuminate the Bible, but space will not allow further examination.

jfb

Sunday’s Sermons:

A.M. — *What Must We Do to Be Saved?*
Acts 2:22-38

P.M. — *Eternal Life: That They May Know*
You, John 17:1-3

Salvation Involves Impending Danger

When I think about the concept of someone being saved, I cannot help but realize that such a concept also implies impending danger. For example, currently there is no potential for someone to save me from being hit by a car, because I am seated at my desk in my office (although I guess we have had a few cars run into the building here a time or two—but you know what I mean). There is only the potential for salvation from being hit by a car if I am in danger of such happening.

Such is also true in the spiritual realm. There is no such thing as salvation if there is not impending danger from which someone needs salvation. I wonder though if we actually realize this fact, or if we do realize it—does it change our actions towards those who need salvation? Let us examine this concept a little more in-depth.

A person who has the mental capacity to understand and who has the mental capacity to understand they have sinned against God is in immediate danger. You may ask, “What is that danger?” The Bible refers to such danger in many ways.

Jesus is said to have come to “seek and save the lost.” The concept of “lost” in this passage (Luke 19:10) is not the concept of the loss of being (some think it refers to simply going out of existence). The biblical concept of being lost involves “the loss of wellbeing for eternity.” A person who is lost will spend a timeless existence separated from God.

The Bible also refers to those who choose not to believe and obey God as having their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone (Revelation 21:8). Picture this, someone you know is about to fall into a burning lake that contains horrible beasts. Now if you could do something in the physical realm to help them from doing so, would you? I think most all would say, “Of course I would.” Well, what about in the spiritual realm?

The Bible also teaches that the Lord will return again someday. In connection with this idea Jesus stated that the righteous would go away to eternal life (Matthew 25:46) but that He would say to those who were not doing His will, “depart from me, you cursed, into eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). Notice from verse 46 as well that those that he told to depart, will go away into everlasting punishment. In verse 46, though many translations use two different words (eternal and everlasting) in the Greek they are the same word; both punishment and reward are eternal.

Paul writes through inspiration in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 additionally about the Lord’s return. Paul records that the Lord will come in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who know not God and obey not the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Is that not the ultimate picture of impending danger. There is none more powerful than Deity like Jesus. I cannot imagine the vengeance that will be taken on that day.

But here is the important fact—you can do something to save a person from impending danger. You can share with them the gospel of Christ. Might they laugh at you or even become angry with you? Quite possibly. But I believe you care enough about others that you will do all you can to save them from impending danger. In the long run it does not matter what I believe—God is relying on you as a Christian to save others from impending danger!

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, Ky.*

News and Notes

GRACE SPEER was seen in the ER at Hardin Memorial Hospital Sunday night. **BUTCH SPENCER**, Misty Dunn's stepfather, is terminally ill with a brain tumor. **PEGGY HAGLER**, Lisa Treadway's mother, will undergo surgery in Knoxville April 20 to remove an ovarian tumor.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Rosa Lee Norman
Carl & Delsie Axton	Ruby Keister
Neil Burden	Pansy Sells
Faye Guess	Grace Speer
Dorothy Hawkins	Kay Thomason
Roy Johnson	Barbara Underwood
Diane Lewis	Lonnie Underwood
Dan Marcum	John Weaver
J Martin	Dorotha Weaver
Carl Mercer	Lawrence Wells
	Jim White

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

Afghanistan—Kelly Leverett, Travis Clonch

Iraq—Drew McAlpin

Fort Knox—Michael Morrow, Israel Fox, Barry Barclay, Brian Wilkins, Nathan Miller, A. J. Anderson, Roni Reed

Others—Robert E. Wooten, Korry Leverett, Joe Betterton, Terry Turner, Brett Fleming, Nathan McClain, Ronald O'Bryant, Aaron Wellman, Dan Sloat, Gregory Stack, Tim Gil

Youth News

Taylor Christian Camp applications are on the table in the lobby. Deadline for applications and registration fees is May 17.

Freed-Hardeman University Horizons, July 4-9.

Applications available online for 7th-12th graders.

There are also some applications on the table in the lobby.

New Addresses

Courtney & Kristy Vernon
9131 Hardinsburg Rd.
Cecilia, KY 42724

Wendy, Ashlee, Alan, & Alexia Leister
422 Lee Road
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
Phone # 763-0976

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 4/18/10 Canned peas & mixed vegetables

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **YOUNG ADULTS MEETING**, Sunday morning, **April 18**, in the South Wing.
- **VBS MEETING**, Sunday afternoon, **April 18**, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 10.
- **YOUTH DEVOTIONAL**, Sunday night, **April 18**, hosted by David & Claudia Woodring.
- **SINGING AT ATRIA**, Sunday afternoon, **April 25**, at 3:00 p.m. 5th Graders & Under and their parents are encouraged to participate.
- **YOUTH WORK DAY**, Saturday, **May 1**, for 3rd-12th graders. Meet at the building at 9:00 a.m.
- **BABY SHOWER** for Rachel Anderson, Sunday afternoon, **May 2**, at 2:00 p.m. in the South Wing. Rachel & AJ are expecting a baby girl in June and are registered at Target and Babies R Us.
- **GOSPEL MEETING**, **May 16-19**, with Tom Holland
- **CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK**, Sunday, **May 16**
- **YOUTH BANQUET** to honor our high school graduates (Jacob Bartelt, Samantha Clack, Brittany Hogan and Katy Nash), Sunday morning, **May 23**, in the South Wing.

Congratulations

Mike & Patsy Pence are the proud grandparents of a granddaughter, Ivy Susanne Reiningger, born April 9 in Nashville, Tennessee. She weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20 1/2" long. Proud parents are Sean & Tonya Reiningger, proud big brother is Reed Reiningger and proud great-grandparents are Howard & Teanie Pence. Congratulations to the Reiningger and Pence families.

Terry Nowland will graduate from Sullivan University April 17 receiving a Masters Degree in Business Administration. Congratulations, Terry!

OUR RECORD FOR

April 11, 2010

Sunday Bible Study	148
Sunday Morning Assembly	229
Sunday Evening Assembly	115
Wednesday Bible Study	103
Ladies Bible Class	18
Contribution (Budget -- \$6,888)	\$6,885

Elder/Coordinator for April
Henry McAlister

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: Who talked about a hen and chickens?

Last Week's Bible Question: Who was Kish? The correct answer is the father of King Saul, 1 Samuel 14:51, 1 Samuel 9:1-3, 1 Chronicles 12:1. Those who correctly answered the question are: Mary Walker, Jerry Carter, Jean Smith, Edna Ashlock, Rick Eiler, Joyce Pack, Wilma Stull, Nadine Fulkerson, Bloria Taylor, Helen Raby, Reagan & Samuel White, and Lorene Harris. Reagan & Samuel White's names were left out of last week's bulletin as correctly answering the question.

Please write down your answer and put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to chofchrist@windstream.net 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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Elizabethtown Church of Christ
P. O. Box 652
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Church Office: 765-6446
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Elders:

Ron Carter	358-5792
Henry McAlister	765-7386
Mike Pence	737-8123
Rick Whobrey	769-9267

Ministers:

John Board	763-1677
	cell # 505-3925

Secretary:

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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Email: chofchrist@windstream.net

Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.etowncofc.org

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Apr. 18 — Young Adults Meeting
Apr. 18 — VBS Meeting
Apr. 18 — Youth Devo
Apr. 25 — Singing at Atria
May 1 — Youth Work Day
May 2 — Anderson Baby Shower
May 16 — Congregational Potluck
May 16-19 — Gospel Meeting w/Tom Holland
May 23 — Senior Youth Banquet
Apr. 19 — 1 Kings 18-20
Apr. 20 — 1 Kings 21-22
Apr. 21 — 2 Kings 1-3
Apr. 22 — 2 Kings 4-5
Apr. 23 — 2 Kings 6-8
Apr. 24 — 2 Kings 9-11
Apr. 25 — 2 Kings 12-14

PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Elizabethtown Church of Christ
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