

Doing Odd Things to Get Even

By Steve Klein

Have you heard of someone cutting off their nose to spite their face? In an effort to get back at others, or teach somebody a lesson, people often wind up inflicting a lot of pain on themselves. Suicide bombers are a case in point. The bitterness and hatred that could lead a person to blow himself up just to harm those that (he thinks) have harmed him, reveals human vengeance for what it is: self-centeredness gone stupid.

In **Genesis 34**, there is the record of Shechem, a prince of the Hivite people, violating Dinah the daughter of Jacob. To avenge their sister, Dinah's brothers Simeon and Levi devised an evil plan against Shechem and his people. They told Shechem that he could marry their sister if he and his men were circumcised. Shechem agreed. **Genesis 34:25** states, "Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males." While this vengeful atrocity appears at first to have evened the score, it did not. By their vigilante justice, Simeon and Levi made many enemies for their family from among the people of the land -- they had cut off their own nose, in a manner of speaking. "Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, 'You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in

number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I." (**Genesis 34:30**). Chapter thirty-five of Genesis goes on to tell how that it was only by God's protection that Jacob's family was able to safely flee to Bethel.

Vengeance does not belong to men; it belongs to God. "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. (**Romans 12:19**).

There appear to be any number of reasons that God has not given individuals the right to avenge themselves. For one, we aren't wise enough to determine who deserves to be punished. Nor are we very good at deciding the appropriate degree of punishment to be inflicted. This is especially true when we are personally involved in a situation. Our judgment is imperfect at best, and often clouded by self-serving prejudice. But another reason we haven't been given the right to take vengeance for ourselves, and the main point of this article, is that our efforts to even a score are often so badly botched that they wind up hurting us more than anyone. Truly, "Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him" (**Proverbs 26:27**). Let us give place to the wrath of God. "He will repay my enemies for their evil" (**Psalms 54:5**).



Sick			
Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Amber Moseley (Toni Herd's niece)	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Easton Alexander (Phillip Box's cousin's baby)	Jerry Sandlin (Megan Lee's Grandfather)
Richard Call Seth Humphrey's Uncle	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Mary Smith (Nathan Smith's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Dale Herd (William Herd's brother)	Larry Alexander (Friend of Phillip Box)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Dale Wilkes (William Herd's Uncle)	

June Birthdays

- 1 - Kenlee Burton
- 3 - Phillip Stephens
- 9 - Kay White
- 11 - Hannah Alexander
- 12 - Orié Cecil
- 12 - Riley Jones
- 12 - Madeline Morton
- 13 - Marcus Harrell
- 14 - Jeremiah Johnson
- 17 - Wesley White
- 17 - Sarah Norman
- 17 - Brooks Pender
- 22 - Seth Buchanon
- 22 - Paul Tam
- 25 - Corey Hunt
- 28 - Craig Davis
- 28 - Clint Davis
- 28 - Allison Chandler
- 29 - Lisa Lanier

News and Notes

- Our monthly men's business meeting will be today at 3:30.
- This is the last week of our teaching quarter.
- Let us remember Matthew Johnson, David Golden and Tim Morton in our prayers as they are deployed overseas.
- Let us remember Jared Burton and Chris Davis as they undergo treatments.
- Let us remember our expectant mothers in our prayers: Anne Morton and Jana Hall.
- We are expecting a very large number of new students this fall! Lets be praying and preparing to do our part in the church here.

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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The First Day of the Week - A God Given Memorial

By Larry Rouse



Thoughts to Ponder

The life of Jesus is bracketed by two impossibilities: "a virgin's womb and an empty tomb". Jesus entered our world through a door marked, "No Entrance" and left through a door marked "No Exit."

The provisions our God has given us to maintain our faith is misunderstood and often ignored by carnal men. The Creator knows that the greatest struggle men have is in the keeping of their hearts in harmony with the mind of God (**Jer 17:9-10; Prov 4:23**). Even when men are brought to God in humility and as a result find that marvelous relationship with God, they often, over time, drift from Him when blessings and abundance comes into their lives.

Israel, having been born in Egypt, and then humbled in the wilderness was about to experience blessings that previously were only distant promises. The generation that entered Egypt was full of faith, but God knew what lay ahead for this people.

"So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, 11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—12 then beware, lest you forget the Lord

Just like Israel, Christians need to be reminded of their deliverance from Satan and the bondage of sin. Our God has also given us a feast and a day as memorials to the great things He has done and will do for us.

who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage" (**Deuteronomy 6:10-12**).

Even though the next generation did those very things that God said they would, they forgot God because they ignored the perfect provisions He had given them to remember Him.

Consider some of the memorials God had given Israel:

1. The Sabbath was to remind the Jews of their deliverance from Egypt (**Deut 5:15**).
2. Each of the Feasts that God gave Israel was to remember God's actions on their behalf (**Exodus 12:14**).
3. God even instructed Israel to make

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Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

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a heap of stones from the river bed of the Jordan where they had crossed so that future generations might “remember” (**Joshua 4:7**).

Why did these memorials fail in helping Israel remember? Memorials are only effective when people of faith use them. Israel neglected theirs.

God has given the Christian Some Memorials

Just like Israel, Christians need to be reminded of their deliverance from Satan and the bondage of sin. Our God has also given us a feast and a day as memorials to the great things He has done and will do for us.

Here are some memorials God has given the Christian:

1. The Lord’s Day was given and expected to be recognized as His (**Rev 1:10**).
2. The Lord’s Supper was given “in remembrance of Me” (**1 Cor 11:23-25**).

These memorials are very simple and common to the carnal mind --- a day of the week and a simple partaking of bread and fruit of the vine. However, to the Christian, these represent powerful events that give power to one’s faith and bind one’s heart to God.

The Significance of the First Day of the Week

The evidence of the Scriptures points to Sunday as being the Lord’s Day. Consider these truths:

1. It was on the first day of the week that Jesus rose from the dead (**Matthew 28:1-4**).
2. It was on the first day of the week that Jesus established His kingdom. The day this occurred in Jerusalem was on the day of Pentecost, a day that is always on Sunday (**Luke 9:1, 24:46-49; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1**).
3. It was on the first day of every week that the Christians in Corinth were commanded to take a collection for a specific work. “On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come (**1 Corinthians 16:2 - NASB**)”.

4. It was on the first day of the week that the church at Troas partook of the Lord’s Supper (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 10:16**).

How are we using these Memorials?

It did not take long for the church at Corinth to change these God-given memorials into a man-centered, carnal feast (**1 Cor 11:18-20**). Can you imagine how the wrath of God was kindled when this great Memorial was turned into a fleshly centered activity where God’s Son was forgotten by the very people that were redeemed by His blood?

“Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep” (**1 Corinthians 11:27-30**).

Will God’s Memorial profit you?

One of the most common forms of memorials men make is in the gravestones that accompany their graves. For almost all of us those memorials will be used by no more than one generation. I will never forget how I stumbled across an abandoned graveyard a few years ago that had been revealed by a brushfire. Some of the graves were less than 30 years old, but they all had been forgotten. My heart ached at the message this neglect spoke.

If my assembling on the first day of the week is not producing the rejoicing, the self-examination and the strong anticipation of our returning Lord, then I am not remembering. Please do not blame that on others. It is up to you. Just like that abandoned graveyard spoke volumes to a generation that forgot their loved ones, so does the neglect of God’s memorials speak volumes about the real nature of your faith. Will you remember?

How I look forward to these special occasions the Lord has given to remind me of His grace, His love and His present and future care. Thank you Lord for all the rich provisions you have bestowed upon us!



Two Men Have an Unfaithful Child

By John R. Gibson

Bill and Fred are both faithful in their attendance and active in the work of the local church, but unfortunately both men have a grown child who does not serve the Lord faithfully. The spiritual lives of Bill and Fred seem similar in many ways, but when it comes to dealing with the unfaithful child there is a big difference.

When Bill is asked about his son, he is honest in describing the situation and urges everyone to do all they can to help re-store his son to faithfulness. If anything is said to Fred, he immediately becomes defensive and makes excuses for his son. While Bill wishes people would be more direct in dealing with the soul-threatening sin in his son’s life, Fred continually worries that someone is going to say the wrong thing to his son and “offend” him.

Is this writer describing an actual situation with which he is familiar? The answer is yes and no. The names are fictitious, but they do represent the actions and attitudes of real people he has watched and known over the years. This writer has known his share of “Bills” who understood the danger their children were in and sought the help of all. But tragically, he has also seen far too many “Fred’s” who were so worried about the feelings of their children that they would make excuses for them, cover up for them, perhaps try to keep people from even finding out about them and become resentful toward those who did try to help.

If the passing of years were to see this writer have an unfaithful child, would he be a Bill or a Fred? Would he find himself making excuses that sometimes border on dishonesty or would his concern for the soul of his child cause him, no matter how heartbreaking it was, to refuse to excuse the conduct and instead urge everyone to do those things

Parents, please think carefully about this painful subject. Do not ever allow your love, pride, embarrassment, shame or anything else to stand in the way of that which is needed to bring your child to repentance.

that needed to be done? In all honesty, that question cannot be answered now and he hopes it never has to be answered, but if that time ever comes there can be no doubt about which answer ought to be given.

When people are overtaken in sin fellow-Christians have an obligation to restore them (**Galatians 6:1; James 5:19, 20**). As parents, we must make certain that we do not

stand in the way of those seeking to restore the erring. To carry it even further, are the parents themselves excused from the obligation to “restore such a one”? It has to be truly heart-breaking and gut-wrenching for a parent to see the church withdraw from one of their children (**see 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15**), but a parent who has the proper faith in God and a true love for his child rejoices that God’s children care enough about God and their child to follow God’s plan. Though painful, they trust that the desired end is that “his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (**1 Corinthians 5:5**).

Let us love our children; seek to train them when they are young and then remember two things if they should choose not to remain faithful:

- 1) We must love Jesus (and His teachings) even more than our children (**Matthew 10:37**).
- 2) Our love for our children is a very shallow love if it does not extend to their souls.

Parents, please think carefully about this painful subject. Do not ever allow your love, pride, embarrassment, shame or anything else to stand in the way of that which is needed to bring your child to repentance.

