

April . . .



Times Remembered Betty A. Young

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The other night when it was raining so hard and I heard the sounds of the rapid tattoo of rain on the roof brought country memories floating to my mind. I remember standing on the back porch of my childhood farmhouse listening to the tap-tap of the April rain on the tin roof. I could hear my mother say, "We need the rain; the tobacco beds and grass need it." For a child yearning to play outside; I always wanted the rain to stop. This past few days have been a repeat of years ago. Seems the rain just keeps coming, but April showers bring May flowers. Maybe all the rain will bring

plenty of morels for wild mushrooms.

Except for a cold snap when the nights can be chilly, April weather is usually always fine. We have our red bud and dogwood winters and in late May we usually have blackberry winter that brings a cold snap.

April also brings back memories of what was quite possibly the most enjoyable school task I ever undertook. My 10th grade biology teacher, Mr. Crace come up with a major project for the spring semester to venture into the hills and hollows of the high country and find as many different plants as possible. You were expected to "press" a leaf or flower, give the plant's common and scientific names, and extra credit could be earned through describing any uses the plant had for humans. For a youngster who cherished every minute she was outdoors, the assignment was a godsend.

I don't remember how many plants I gathered, but the total ran to many scores of them. Even today, I recall the scientific names of a surprising number of them (and this was my one and only formal exposure to biology at any educational level). I particularly enjoyed learning about the human uses of

plants, and of course Daddy and Grandpa, both of whom were first-rate amateur naturalists, were of great help. There were foodstuffs aplenty—all the wild fruits, nuts, and berries; wild vegetables such as those mentioned above along with lamb's quarters, dandelions, wild lettuce and a bunch more; medicinal plants such as yellow root and ginseng; and every tree had one or more practical applications. Even non-timber trees such as dogwoods (for slingshots and a perfectly serviceable wedge for splitting wood), elderberry shoots (pop guns, blow guns, whistles, and turkey calls), and Osage orange (bows, yokes) had their applications.

April also brings all the chirping of birds. The Cardinals are usually the first songbirds to start singing, and the "pretty, pretty" of the male is a signal that the time to start listening for a distant turkey gobbler, as turkey season is coming in a week

or two. Soon towhees (their two-note song sounds more like jo-ree to me, and that's what the mountain folks call them) join in; somewhere off in the distance one raucous crow voice sets a whole host of these black busybodies to conversing in their fussy, garrulous fashion; a hawk screams; robins sing; and a pileated woodpecker adds its strange voice. People have called the sound so startling they once called it a "Lord Gawd Bird"—as in "Lord Gawd, what was that?"

All the while I'm listening so intently I hear the tell-tale rattling of a distant gobbler declaring dominion to all within earshot. This will make Bob happy and because he loves turkey hunting. They definitely aren't far away because we see evidence of them scratching and digging in the leaves for food. But when opening day comes. . . they are nowhere to be found; it seems they know the dates they may be hunted.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

EPHESIANS 5:2

Woodcut of Christ by Hans Sebald Beham (1500-1550)

What Does The Bible Teach About Gambling? by BOB CASEY, Preacher

Church of Christ, 262 Broadway, Irvine, KY

Last week we opened this topic with two questions: #1. What is good about gambling? #2. If you gamble, what is the attraction which influences you to participate?

I mentioned that just recently a preacher of some note said unto me: "The Bible doesn't say anything about it." This alarmed me to the decision to research this subject. I have found that many gamble with a free conscience, simply I believe, because most preachers are not offering Bible based lessons concerning it. So today we will look at what some are saying.

Arguments offered to defend and justify gambling

A. Some say: How can gambling be a sin if it is not mentioned in the Bible?

First of all, not all sinful conduct is mentioned in the Bible, such as suicide, larceny, bootlegging, drug dealing, slavery, pimping, and a host of other things, are they wrong?

Secondly, yes we can discern any action to be evil or good by Bible principles! (I Thessalonians 5:2, 22; Hebrews 5:14). Again, what does the Bible say is the motivation for gambling? Greed.

B. Life is a gamble. Life insurance, IRA accounts, stocks, driving on the highways, playing sports, etc.

(1) What has been confused here is Risk and Chance. There is a certain risk in all of life's activities. But the mere presence of a risk does not mean the activity is gambling. Even a farmer takes a risk when he spends his money for seed. Hoping for a good season of produce. But he is not taking the risk at the expense of someone else. This is honest labor approved by God. So when there is a good season both the farmer and the consumer benefit. Gambling is very much different. Some one is going to lose, so a chance is trying to get something for nothing.

C. Some say: "In the Bible they cast lots, and that was gambling." In John 19:23, 26 the soldiers cast lots for the property of Jesus. This was God's plan of fulfilling prophecy (Psalms 22:16). Would anyone attempt to justify gambling by the actions of those who crucified our Lord?

In Acts 1:14, 26, the selection of Mattias to take the place of Judas was not gambling. God made the choice!

D. Some say: "We spend money on hunting, fishing, bowling, golf. Is this gambling?" Again many play the slot machine, bet on horse racing, purchase tickets of the lottery, and these are gambling. One might say: "I just do it for entertainment." Well, if you won something, would you give it back? In gambling, someone has to be a loser of their hard earned money for a winner to enjoy himself. It is the principal teachings of the book of God who says to love thy neighbor as thyself (Matthew 22:39). Sadly, there are many confessing church members who play the lottery. At the same time we may condemn the Catholic Church for their bingo nights. Are we any different when we purchase a lottery ticket? Next week we will be dealing with all the Bible passages that condemn the acts of gambling. If you are adding these and have a comment in question, just call me at this number: 1-(859) 369-4165 anytime.

Sincerely, Bob Casey

Gambling – Worldliness or Godliness?

Three Elements Of Gambling

- The Uncertain Event** - It is arbitrarily determined.
- The Stake** - Wager or bet that is deliberately chanced.
- A Winner And Loser** - one loses a possession wagered while the winner takes it from him!

seeds of Hope

Martin Luther once wrote to a friend, "Your thoughts of God are too human!" That certainly was not true of David.

David saw the greatness of God and the glory of His creation: "O Lord, our Lord the majesty of Your name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens!" Perhaps he was thinking about the time when there was nothing and no one but God. Perhaps he was allowing his mind to wander and entertain the idea that God chose to make Himself known to man. It may have been that David was "awe-struck" to think of the possibility that he could actually communicate with God or get His attention by calling on Him.

And he continues his

thoughts about the greatness of God when he writes of His "majesty and glory" - the power that He has over the heavens, the earth and all that is in and on the earth. Nothing is beyond Him.

Notice two very important things: David begins with "O Lord" - describing his personal relationship with God. He knew that by "speaking" His name he would get God's attention. How impressive is that! This powerful God is present with him at that moment and is personally concerned about him and will respond to him if he calls upon him. And this is just the beginning.

Notice that "O Lord" is followed by "Our Lord" which includes all of us. God, speaking through David, wants us to know that He, this "majestic" God, is always thinking of us, watching over us and concerned about us.

PS014 - April 9, 2014
Visit us at Guido Gardens, Metter GA

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Iscariot in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the only book of the Bible (KJV) that mentions Christ's tomb being sealed? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. When Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" came upon the risen Jesus, whom did He ask them to inform?

Priests, Disciples, No One, Villagers

4. Which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus

5. From Acts 1, how long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days

6. As found in Matthew 27:5, what happened to Judas, the betrayer of Jesus? Fled into night, Stoned to death, Jumped from cliff, Hanged himself

Bible Trivia answers are at the bottom of Page 12

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Thursday - Sunday, April 10th-13th

Revival At Ravenna CofG

Ravenna Church of God will be having Revival, April 10th - 13th, with different guest speakers each night.

Thursday - 7 PM - Pastor Dale Campbell
Friday - 7 PM - State Youth Director: Brian Yaun

Saturday - 7 PM - Pastor Brian Montgomery.
Sunday - 10:45 & 6 pm - Rev Ronald Gene Johns

There will be special singing nightly. Everyone is invited. For further information, contact Pastor Willie Hargus Gordon, 723-2898.

Sunday-Thursday, April 13th-17th

Revival At Mount Carmel

Mount Carmel Christian Church will be having a revival with Bro. Randall Johnson, Sunday through Thursday, April 13-17. Service begins at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday and at 7:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. There will be special music each night! All are welcome to attend! Call 606-726-9342 if any questions

Also, please attend our Easter sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 20th followed by our Resurrection Sunday service at 11:00 a.m.

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