



# TRUTH & RIGHT

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**WELLSBURG**  
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## **CONSEQUENCES OF SIN**

The apostle Paul declared in Galatians 6:7 – “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.” There has always been consequence to sin from the moment Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden (Gen. 2-3). Man should not think that he can escape the eye of God.

King David was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22) and became the greatest king to sit upon the throne of Israel. Whenever David’s name is mentioned there is always a sidebar of remembering the incident with Bathsheba, wife of Uriah the Hittite. In 2Samuel 11 we read of David walking on the roof of his house one evening when he “saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold” (2Sam. 11:2). David brought Bathsheba into his palace and

lay with her. Later she told the King that she was with child. Wanting to cover the incident up, her husband was recalled from the besieging of the city of Rabbah.

Uriah the Hittite was one of the mighty men of David (2Sam. 23:39; 1Chron. 11:41). He was a man of honor and nobility in service to his king. When called home from the war, he refused to enter his house as long as his men and the ark were engaged in battle. Failing at other attempts to coerce Uriah into bed with his wife, David sent an order (by the hand of Uriah) to his general, Joab, to place Uriah in the heat of battle and then withdraw. Uriah carried his death notice and died in the battle.

It was later God sent Nathan the prophet to David to declare unto him the judgment

of the Lord upon David & Bathsheba, the child and the descendants of David. The immediate consequence of David's sin was the condemnation of God. The grace of God allowed David to live (2Sam. 12:13) but the child would die. Further consequence that David would suffer is the sword would never leave his house and adversaries would rise up against him – even from his own household (see Absalom and Adonijah). The house of David suffered many years of hardship because of David's sin.

The punishment outlined by Nathan (2Sam. 12:7-15) was immediate at least in the lifetime of David. The sad part of David's sin was that he would forever be marked as the man who took Uriah's wife. When the account of Abijam's reign in Judah is given in the book of 1Kings it says: "Because David did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the case of Uriah the Hittite" (1Kings 15:5). The consequence of sin remained.

Remarkably when the genealogy of Jesus Christ is given in Matthew's account, David is again marked with his

sin. "Jesse was the father of David the king. David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah" (Matt. 1:6). Generations removed David is still remembered for what he did to Uriah and his sin with Bathsheba.

Sin will take you farther than you want to go and keep you longer than you want to stay. The lust of the flesh will mark a person for lifetime as the one who is known for what they have done. This does not dismiss forgiveness as God forgave David but the reality of the reaping of sin sowed in a moment's reckless folly will blacken the pages of life – and sometimes long after the person has died. Many have walked that road today and bear a heavy burden. David cries from the grave long passed: "O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness" (1Tim. 6:11). – Kent Heaton

## **Would God Say Our Enemies Are Right?**

"Then one from the crowd said to Him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' But He said to him, 'Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?' And He said to them, 'Take heed and

beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:13-15).

**WHEN WE HAVE DISPUTES WITH OTHERS, AND ESPECIALLY WHEN WE FEEL WE'VE BEEN MISTREATED, WE OFTEN ASSUME THAT GOD IS ON OUR SIDE AND THAT HE WILL EVENTUALLY VINDICATE US.**

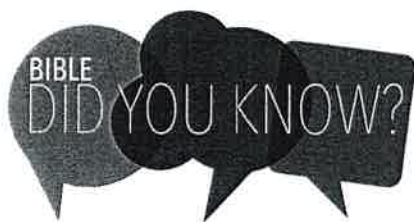
Whether there is even one other person who understands us, it helps our feelings to know in our own minds that we occupy the high ground morally and that the time is coming when God will set the record straight. Then, if not before, our enemies will be forced to admit that we were right all along.

Perhaps we are correct. If indeed our cause is just, we surely do have God's word that He will stand up in our defense and deal with our enemies as they should be dealt with (2 Thessalonians 1:6,7; Revelation 6:9-11). Truth is stronger than untruth, and if there is ever any action taken against us that is not based on truth, that action will not stand the test of time. In the short term, misrepresentations and mistreatments may go unopposed, but the truth will eventually come out. In the meantime we are simply to entrust ourselves to God (2 Timothy 1:12; 1 Peter 4:19).

But we need to be exceedingly careful here. William James correctly observed that "the God of many men is little more than their court of appeal against the damnatory judgment passed on their failures by the opinion of the world." When the whole truth comes out, as it surely will, are we absolutely sure that it will show US to be in the right? Self-honesty is not an easy thing for most

of us, and it may turn out that WE were the ones hiding from the truth. It may be that when God stands up to defend whoever is right, He will say our enemies were right and WE were wrong! It's always good to appeal to truth, but truth is a tough witness. Let's be sure we're ready for all that the truth will have to say.

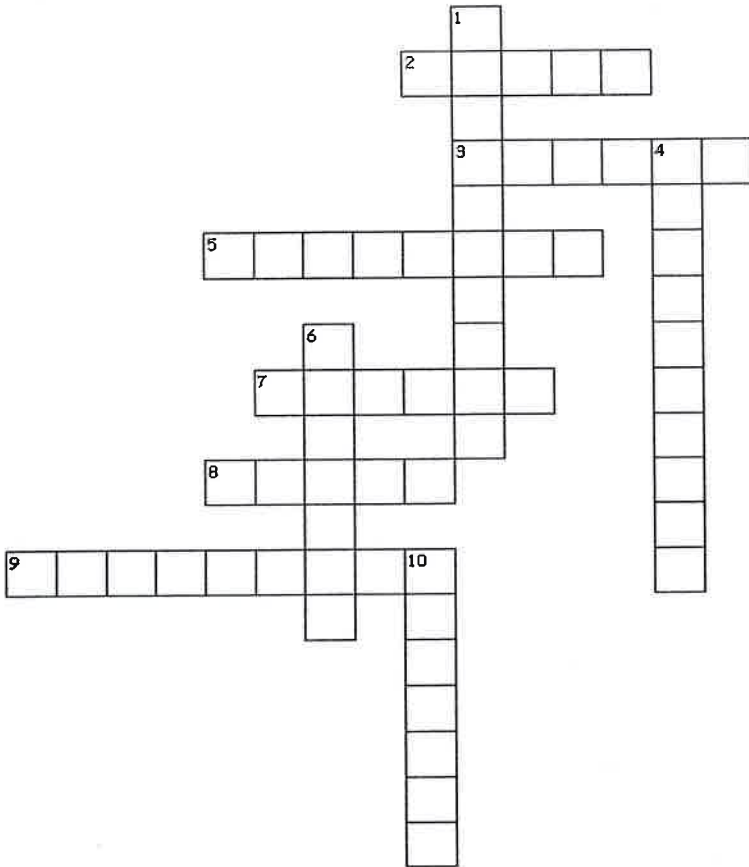
"Very few people in this world care to listen to the real defense of their own characters. The real defense which belongs to the Day of Judgment, would make such damaging admissions, would clear away so many artificial virtues, would tell such tragedies of weakness and failure, that a man would sooner be misunderstood and censured by the world than exposed to that awful and merciless eulogy" (G. K. Chesterton). – Gary Henry



***"Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places."***  
**Habakkuk 3:17-19**

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### ACROSS

2. He who does not \_\_\_\_ the Son does not \_\_\_\_ the Father. (Jn. 5:23)
3. The Jews said it was not permissible to carry this on the Sabbath. (Jn. 5:10)
5. The Father has given all \_\_\_\_ to the Son. (Jn. 5:22)
7. Jesus wanted to give the Samaritan woman \_\_\_\_ water. (Jn. 4:10)
8. Everyone who does evil hates the \_\_\_\_\_. (Jn. 3:20).
9. When wine ran out, Jesus said to fill these with water. (Jn. 2:7)

### DOWN

1. The darkness did not \_\_\_\_ the light. (Jn. 1:5)
4. The true Light \_\_\_\_ every man. (Jn. 1:9)
6. Unless one is born of water and spirit you cannot enter this. (Jn. 3:5)
10. Jesus made a \_\_\_\_ of cords and drove people out of the temple. (Jn. 2:15)