

# THE SABBATH SCOOP

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## THE 3 MOST IMPORTANT BONES

What are the three most important bones to make it successfully through life?

By Gregory Dullum

What are the three most important bones in our body? What three bones do we need most to make it successfully through this life?

Is it the skull, which protects our brain and holds our eyes, ears, nose and mouth in their proper places? Is it an arm bone so we can paint and write and build and play? Is it a leg bone so we can walk and run and travel the world? What

three bones do we need the most?

The answer, surprisingly, is *none of these!* I learned the answer while listening to an audiobook by country singer Reba McEntyre, titled *Comfort From a County Quilt*. In her book, Reba said her father taught her about the three most important bones in the body. They were NOT the skull, the ribs, or the bones in the arms or the legs. No, they were the funny bone, the wish bone and the backbone.

### BONE 1

The “funny bone” is the first of the three most important “bones” we need to be a success in this life. Why the funny bone? We need a funny bone so we don’t take life too seriously.

How important is humor in our life?

Wise King Solomon wrote, “A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones” (Prov. 17:22). A marginal note in the *New King*

#### BONE 1

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### BONE 2

The second most important bone is a wishbone. I don’t mean the wishbone we find in chickens and turkeys that we break apart in hopes of making a wish come true.

To illustrate the wishbone, let me recount an event in my life.

Father’s Day has traditionally been a big celebration in our home. In 2003, our daughter, Melissa, and my wife, Marie, took me out to Cracker Barrel, where I had pancakes topped with sweet, warm peaches and a big, white stripe of whipped cream that was *m-m-m-m* so

#### BONE 2

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### BONE 3

The third most important bone is the backbone. I’m not talking about the actual bones that make up our spine. We all have those or we’d be puddles of flesh rolling around on the floor. We need physical backbones to *stand upright*. But I’m talking about *standing up* for *what’s right*.

Remember the old tall sailing ships? They had huge canvas sails that caught the wind and drove the ship along. But what held up the sails? What stood firm against the wind? The masts! The masts were the backbone of the ship.

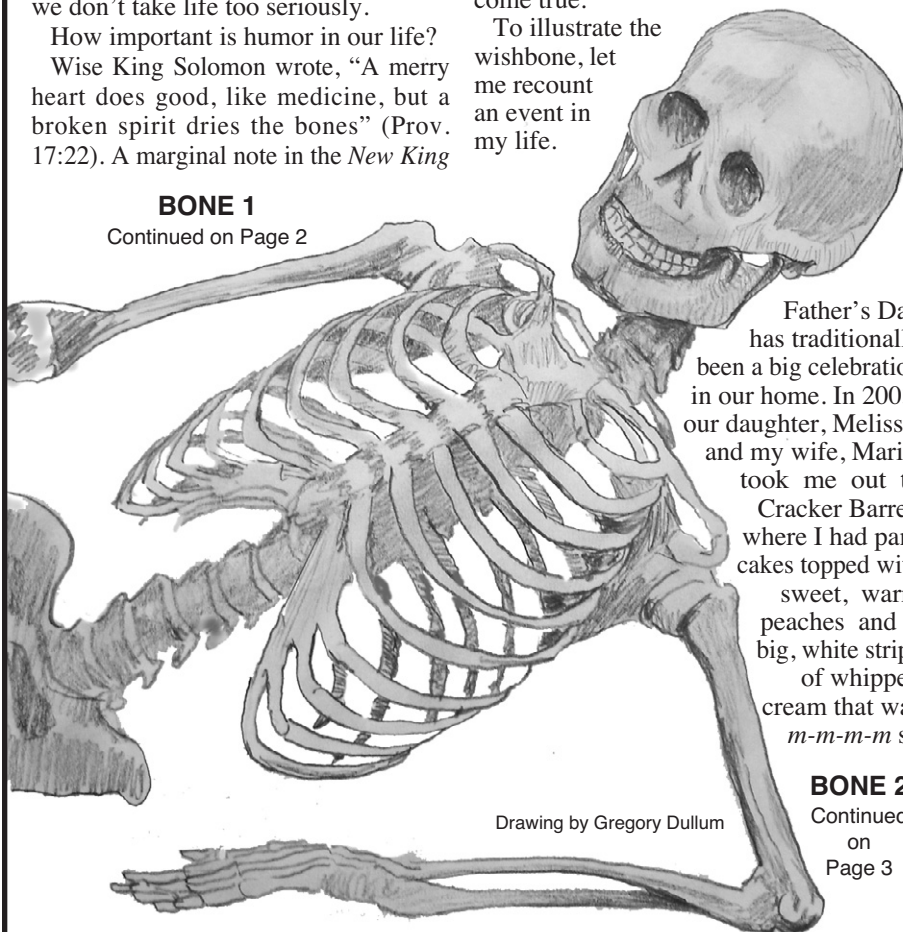
With a good, strong backbone, we must stand firm against whatever Satan throws against us.

Jesus Christ tells us, “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, and will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end will be saved” (Matt. 24:9-13).

It is NOT he who endures *until the going gets tough* who shall be saved. It is not he who endures *until he gets tired* who shall be saved. We must endure *to the end!* Even when the going

#### BONE 3

Continued on Page 4



Drawing by Gregory Dullum

## Bone 1

Continued from Page 1

James Bible renders this verse, “A merry heart makes medicine even better.”

Modern research has shown that there is a healing power to humor. Some time ago, I saved an article from NAPS Featurette news service titled, “Laughter is Good Medicine for Kids.” It states:

“Early results from a five-year study seem to indicate an ability for children and teens to withstand painful medical procedures better while they watch classic and contemporary television comedy shows.

“Margaret Stuber, M.D., a researcher with UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and Mattel UCLA Children’s Hospital, and her colleagues, are testing how laughter can improve immune function, reduce pain and ease children through trauma of medical procedures such as injections and bone marrow aspirations, and minimize the traumatic effects that children experience.

“The program, the brainchild of former TV executive Sherry Dunay Hilber, is a unique collaboration between the entertainment industry, pediatrics, and psychiatry.

“‘Laughter seems to induce a relaxation response in the part of the nervous system that controls involuntary functions of the body,’ says Dr. Stuber. ‘In the future, watching humorous videos could become a standard component of some medical procedures.’”

Ecclesiastes 3:4 tells us, “There is a time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to mourn and a time to dance.” There are times in our lives when we should be serious and somber. But it should not be all the time! Do we spend more time laughing then we do crying? We should!

We need to develop the ability to laugh at ourselves and not take life and its problems so seriously.

Ed Howe said, “If you don’t learn to laugh at trouble, you won’t have anything to laugh at when you’re old.”

Comedian Jerry Lewis, who hosted the Muscular Dystrophy telethon for many years, was a pretty funny guy in his younger days. He called humor a “safety valve.” He said, “The peoples of the world who have the ability to laugh at themselves are those who survive.”

Comedic actor Bob Hope said that laughter has constructive power. A laugh, he says, “can transform almost unbearable tears into something bearable, even hopeful.”

“Happiness makes a person smile, but sadness can break a person’s spirit. ... Every day is hard for those who suffer, but a happy heart is like a continual feast”

(Prov. 15:13, 15 *New Century Version*).

What is our life like? Is it hard and full of suffering? Or is it like a continual feast?

Each fall we observe the Feast of Tabernacles. What does God command us to do at the Feast? Rejoice! Deut. 16:14 says “And you shall rejoice in your feast.”

Things can go wrong at the Feast. Our motel can be a dump. Our rental car can be a lemon. There can be flight delays and car troubles. In spite of all that can physically go wrong at the Feast, God tells us to rejoice! And for the most part, we do. We keep our minds on the deeper, spiritual meaning of the Feast. The Feast pictures a joyful time after Christ’s return.

Later, we often laugh about the troubles we had at the Feast. We follow the advice of Jerry Lewis and Ed Howe and laugh about the problems we encountered at the Feast.

If our life is to be a continual feast, shouldn’t we face every day that same way? Yes! “This is the day which the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Ps. 118:24). EVERY DAY, let’s focus on the *purpose of life and our future* and not get stuck in the day-to-day muck.

Is there an example in the Bible of anyone laughing in the face of problems? There sure is! And we can’t find a better example than this.

“Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us’” (Ps. 2:1-3).

The nations rage and have set themselves against God. It can be a terrible thing to have a nation set itself against you. Shortly after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, U.S. Pres. George Bush demanded that the Taliban leaders turn over Osama Bin Laden or face the consequences. One news clip I saw showed a Taliban leader saying Osama could not have been behind the attack. He was trying to look calm, but the world’s greatest superpower had just delivered an ultimatum to him. He appeared to be sweating profusely. It seems to me he was at least a little bit scared.

And what about people in this country? A year after the 9/11 attacks, I interviewed six people for a newspaper article to be published on the first anniversary of the attack. Several of them said they were scared. A HANDFUL of terrorists had made these people afraid. One said she would never fly again. Another said he was scared to death terrorists would try a similar attack when Sept. 11, 2002, came

around.

In Psalm 2, ALL the nations—not just a few obscure terrorists—have declared war on God. How does God react? Does He tremble in fear? Does He get nervous?

“He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision” (v. 4). God laughs! In the face of adversity, God laughs. Why does He laugh? Because He is ALL POWERFUL. The nations don’t have a chance.

“Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel’” (vv. 5-9).

These verses are speaking specifically about Christ. But are we not to share in his inheritance? Will we not inherit the earth with Christ? Will we not rule the nations under Him (Rev. 2:26-27)?

We are not yet ALL POWERFUL. We have a great future ahead of us, but we’re not there yet. We face adversity now. How can we laugh in the face of adversity while we are still frail humans?

Rom. 8:28 tells us how: “All things work together for the good of those who love God, to those who are the called, according to His purpose.” Three verses later it says, “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Our troubles can never win if we hang in there, love God and live His way. If God can laugh at the nations waging war against Him, we can certainly laugh at

### BONE 1

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## The SABBATH SCOOP

228 O’Connell Drive  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-3332

### Editor

Gregory Dullum

### Circulation Managers:

Jack Leasure • Dan & Anita Estes

Gregory Dullum

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## Bone 2

Continued from Page 1

good! And I washed it down with a big mug of hot coffee. It was a *good start* to a *good day*.

Then we went home and I opened about 20 presents. Anticipation ran high as I opened my gifts, because for a year or two I had been dropping hints that I would *really enjoy* getting a HAMMOCK. (Father's Day the year before had come and gone, but NO HAMMOCK.) So in 2003 I quit beating around the bush. I came right out and said I wanted one. Whenever we passed one in a store, I made sure Marie or Melissa noticed it. I even cut out a picture of a hammock from a newspaper advertisement and stuck it on the refrigerator door.

Guess what? In 2003, I opened all my presents and there was *not a hammock to be found!* I had gum. And soap. And pens. And beer. And candy. And a Hawaiian shirt. And a little hand-painted pottery item that said "I love Dad." All of my presents were very nice presents. But there was no hammock.

Some dreams don't ever come true.

After opening my presents, we went to St. Louis and visited Grant's Farm. We fed some baby goats from milk bottles, some camels from our hands, and even drank some free beer in the beer garden. It was a fun family outing. Before leaving St. Louis, we ate dinner at the Outback Steak House there. So it was a nice Father's Day, all in all, even though *I didn't get my hammock*.

That evening, I decided to watch the Walt Disney film, *The Rookie*. The movie is based on a true story about a man who always wanted to be a major league pitcher. It was his dream. But some dreams don't ever come true.

The back of the video box states: "Jim

Morris (Dennis Quaid), father, teacher and high school coach, thought his dream was over. He'd had his shot playing baseball, blew out his shoulder, and retired without ever making it in the big leagues." On the front of the video box it states, "It's never too late to believe in your dreams."

As the final credits on the movie rolled, a song played which includes the lines: "Some dreams don't ever come true. But some dreams do."

Is it important for us to have dreams? Should we have goals, strong desires, and wishes?

When we are young, it is natural to have dreams. Our whole life lies before us and we dream of becoming cowboys, pilots, astronauts, artists, singers and ballerinas.

When I was young, I dreamed of being a journalist. I became an editor of a weekly community newspaper in Minnesota before moving to Missouri, and I am now an editor for a newspaper here.

As a child, I paged through the *Envoy* and dreamed of going to Ambassador College. In May of 1974, when I was a senior in high school, I received my acceptance letter.

I dreamed of marrying a wonderful woman and having a happy marriage. This October, that dream will be a reality for 40 years.

Marie and I dreamed of having four children. We had four pregnancies, although two didn't make it.

My wife and I dreamed of moving to Southeast Missouri to get out of the cold Minnesota winters and to be closer to Marie's family. Thirty years ago, in January 1988, we made the move. We dreamed of owning a house but never thought it would happen. However, less than 18 months after we moved to Missouri, the impossible happened. On a date we find easy to remember—6/7/89—we closed the sale on our home.

My wife and I dreamed of going to Hawaii. We never thought we could afford it. But we saved up extra money, combined it with second tithes, and spent the Feast in 2003 on Maui. Our 25th anniversary fell during the Feast that year, so we celebrated with family members who joined us there for the Feast. On the evening of our anniversary, Marie and I took a sunset dinner cruise on the Pacific Ocean.

Some dreams don't ever come true. But some do.

As we get older, do we forget to dream? Do we get in ruts? Does the reality of the adult world crash down on us and crush our dreams?

What dreams do we have?

If we stop dreaming, we stop living life

to the fullest. As *The Rookie* package says, "It's never too late to believe in your dreams."

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life" (Prov. 13:12). Some dreams don't ever come true. But some do. And when they do, it is a tree of life to us! "A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul" (v. 19).

It is important that we dream the proper dreams. "The desire of the righteous is only good, but the expectation of the wicked is wrath" (Prov. 11:23).

Did Jesus Christ ever fervently desire anything when He was on the earth? He lived life to the fullest and I'm sure he had many dreams and wishes and desires. Let's read about just one.

"Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread when the Passover must be killed. ... And when the hour had come, He [Jesus] sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, 'With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer' " (Luke 22:7, 14-15).

Why did Jesus *fervently* desire to eat this Passover with his disciples? Because at this Passover He instituted the New Covenant symbols of bread and wine. It is through the New Covenant that we begin to have access to the Kingdom of God. Jesus was focused on the Kingdom. He knew He was soon to die, and in just three days and three nights, the Kingdom of God *would no longer* be a DREAM for him. He would be *in the Kingdom!* He would be a spirit being and return to his throne in heaven.

It is great to have right and proper physical dreams in this life. But our ultimate dream should be the same one King David had: "One thing I have desired of the LORD, that I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple" (Ps. 27:4).

"Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your ways to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—it only causes harm. For evil doers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. ... The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell in it forever" (Ps. 37:4-9, 29).

### Know Your Bible

By Charles Nenninger

1. What was the fewest number of righteous people necessary for God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah?
2. Who was Sarah's husband?
3. What man was turned into a beast?
4. How many people were converted by Peter's sermon on Pentecost?
5. Who was bound with ropes and broke them as if they were thread?

(Answers on page 5)

**BONE 2**

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## Bone 3

Continued from Page 1

gets tough! Even when we're tired! Enduring to the end—that means until the *day we die* or until *the day Christ returns*. To endure to the end takes backbone! It is important to have backbone! Our salvation depends on it!

Let's look at an example of church people having backbone.

“Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ‘Go stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.’ And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

“But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported, saying, ‘Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!’ Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. Then one came and told them, saying, ‘Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!’

“Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, ‘Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood on us!’

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, ‘We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him’ ” (Acts 5:17-32). This is very bold action on the part of the apostles! They stood up to the religious leaders of the day. Why were they so bold?

1. They had a close relationship with God! They had lived with Christ for 3-



Photo by Greg Dullum

The masts on the tall sailing ships had to stand strong against the wind as it filled huge canvas sails. The masts were the backbone of the ships.

1/2 years. They had seen Him risen! In verses 19 and 20, an angel had miraculously rescued them from prison!

2. Verse 32 tells us they had the holy spirit. It is not a spirit of FEAR but of POWER and of love and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7). Perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

3. Verse 32 tells us they OBEYED GOD. They had a history of obeying God. They practiced God's way every day. They knew the blessings that God's way brings.

Where did this boldness get them? “When they [the Jewish leaders] heard this, they were furious and took counsel to kill them” (Acts 5:33). The apostles faced death! But God rescued them. A member of the council named Gamaliel, a Pharisee and a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, intervened on behalf of the apostles. After listing a couple of other movements that had failed, he warned the council, “And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God” (vv. 34-39).

Did the Apostles get off scott free? No! “And they [the council members] agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go” (v. 40).

The apostles suffered for doing the right thing! How did they react? Did it get them

down? Did it get them discouraged? Did they quit? Or did they have the backbone to keep going? “So they [the apostles] departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ” (vv. 41-42). They faced adversity and kept going!

How can we be more like the Apostles?

We find part of the answer in Mark 8:34-35: “And when He had called the people to Him, with his disciples also, He said to them, ‘Whoever desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.’ ”

At Baptism, we gave our entire life to God to use as He saw fit. We must not, years later, forget our Baptism vow and try to take back our life. By giving our entire life over to God, we are promised eternal life in the future. No one can take that eternal life from us. The only way we can lose our eternal life is if we try to take back our physical life. That's not a fair trade! Don't *ever* trade your physical life for eternal life!

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (vv. 36-37). What is there, in this short, painful, stressful life of tears and

heartache that we would want more than an eternal life of happiness? What would make us trade our eternal life in the God family for a few more hours of selfish living on this planet before we die?

Sometimes it's not a bold life-and-death choice. Sometimes it's simpler and quieter. Do we still have the backbone to stand up as a Christian to DO the right thing, SAY the right thing, and to BE the right thing? Or do we hide our Christianity and try to be like the world around us, hoping not to stand out in this evil and adulterous generation? Instead of standing tall and bold, do we slump down and hope no one will notice that we're different?

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels" (v. 38).

I don't want Christ to be ashamed of me when He comes. I don't want Him denying any knowledge of me! I don't want him saying of me, "I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" (Mat. 7:23). I don't want him saying to me, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Mat. 25:41).

We must strengthen our backbones NOW. Me must firm up or RESOLVE to *do what's right no matter what*. How do we do that? The same way the Apostles did.

1. Build a strong relationship with God. Read the Bible to learn more about how God delivered his people in the past. He helped David slay Goliath. He protected Elijah and his servant from the Syrian army. He saved Daniel's three friends from the fiery furnace. Let's build up our faith in God by studying God's Word and strengthening our prayer life. We can pray more and study more. That's what builds up our relationship with God.

The Apostles lived for 3-1/2 years with Christ. We don't have that same opportunity. But we can read the Bible every day for five, 10, 20, 30, 40 years or more, however long we have been in the Church.

2. Ask God for more of his spirit. Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Mat. 6:11). God's spirit is a spirit of boldness, not fear. It helps us to love, even our enemies. It gives us a sound mind.

We need to stir up the spirit that we have (2 Tim. 1:6). We ought not let it lie dormant in our minds. Put the spirit to work in our lives.

3. We must continue to obey God. We learn about God by living God's way; by practicing God's way.

If we keep doing these three things, our backbone will be strong.

## Bone 1

Continued from Page 2

our little troubles that are nagging us.

Let's not take ourselves so seriously. Let's develop a playful attitude toward problems; tossing them around and handling them with a light touch.

Remember the old proverb, "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men."

Inject laughter into tense situations to save the day; laughter calms tempers and soothes jangled nerves.

One of my favorite ways to make myself laugh is to read some of the old Charlie Brown comic strips. They were funny when I read them as a child and they are still funny today.

As I was recovering from surgery a year ago, I read a large *Reader's Digest* book titled, *Laughter: The Best Medicine*. It was a collection of the funniest jokes, quotes, stories and cartoons that had appeared in *Reader's Digest*. Let me share one with you:

"A man is standing on the curb, getting ready to cross the street. As soon as he steps down onto the pavement, a car comes screaming straight at him. The man picks up speed, but so does the car. So the man turns around and heads back, but the car changes lanes and keeps coming. Now the vehicle is so close and the pedestrian is so scared that he freezes in the middle of the intersection. The car closes in on him—then swerves at the last possible moment and screeches to a halt.

"The driver rolls down the window. Behind the wheel is a squirrel. 'See,' sneers the squirrel, 'it's not as easy as it looks, is it?'" (2006, p. 231).

Collect good jokes and share them with others. I have file folders full of jokes and witty sayings that I have collected over the years.

Here are a couple of puns from my collection:

"Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent."

"A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm, and says: 'A beer, please, and one for the road.'"

Laughter is the best medicine for a long and happy life. He who laughs, lasts.

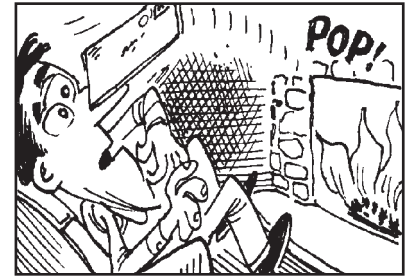
Remember, the "funny bone" is one of the three most important bones in our body. Let's develop our funny bone and rejoice every day.

### Know Your Bible Answers

1) 10. 2) Abraham. 3) Nebuchadnezzar. 4) 3,000. 5) Samson.

## Fun Fact

of creation, history, holidays & the Bible



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS

It was believed by some in the southern United States that if the fire pops on the hearth, a letter is headed your way.

## Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

Here is this month's selection:

*Being George Washington* by Glenn Beck, Threshold Editions, 2011, p. 149.

## If God Be for Us...

"During the revolutionary era most colonists believed that God had played a large part in all the victories of the patriots. They believed that the establishment of a free nation was destined to them by God and that fighting was a divine cause. After all, how could they have survived against the world's greatest military power for long?"

Isa. 50:7-9, Rom. 8:31

## Quotable Quotes

"Laugh and the world laughs with you;

Weep and you weep alone;

For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,

But has trouble enough of its own."

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

## Memory Scripture

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

—Gal. 5:22-23



Photo by Marie Dullum

Some dreams don't ever come true. But some dreams do. My dream for a hammock came true in 2003.

## Bone 2

Continued from Page 4

We are to *inherit the earth and live forever!* This is a dream worth having. No one can take this dream away from us. No one can stop it from coming to pass—except we ourselves, if we GIVE UP.

We must not give up *our eternal life for any reason.* Don't let anyone take our crown (Rev. 3:11). We must hang in there and hang onto our dreams! Some dreams don't ever come true. But some dreams do! The Kingdom of God coming to this earth is one that *will come true!* Jesus told John about the Kingdom of God in the vision of Revelation. What did Jesus say in Rev. 21:5? He said, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

Remember the hammock I didn't get for Father's Day? Well, here's the rest of the story (as Paul Harvey used to say). On Wednesday, June 18, 2003, just three days after Father's Day, I left work early and went to a summer camp to help drive two rental vans back to Cape Girardeau. After returning the vans to the rental company, a church couple drove me home.

As I walked through the back doorway into our kitchen, I noticed a long black canvas bag on the floor in front of the refrigerator. I looked to see what was in the bag.

Kristina, our daughter in California, had bought me a hammock for Father's Day and shipped it to me. I immediately set it up on the back patio and tried it out. I told Marie I felt like Gilligan from the TV show "Gilligan's Island." She said I looked like Gilligan.

Some dreams don't ever come true. But some dreams do.

Let's remember to strengthen our wish bone.

Let's work toward our proper dreams and wishes in this life and never give up on that one sure dream we all have: ruling in the Kingdom of God.

# END-TIME EVENTS

RECENT WORLD EVENTS & THEIR PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

## U.S. Prepares for War With North Korea

"Across the military, officers and troops are quietly preparing for a war they hope will not come.

"At Fort Bragg in North Carolina last month, a mix of 48 Apache gunships and Chinook cargo helicopters took off in an exercise that practiced moving troops and equipment under live artillery fire to assault targets. Two days later, in the skies over Nevada, 119 soldiers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division parachuted out of C-17 military cargo planes

under cover of darkness in an exercise that simulated a foreign invasion.

"Next month, at Army posts across the United States, more than 1,000 reserve soldiers will practice how to set up so-called mobilization centers that move military forces overseas in a hurry" ("Military Quietly Prepares for a Last resort: War With North Korea" by Helene Cooper, Eric Schmitt, Thomas Gibbons-Neff and John Ismay, *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com, Jan. 14, 2018, p. 1).

"Wars and rumors of wars" are a sign we are nearing the time of Christ's return, but the end is not yet (Mat. 24:3, 6).

# ARE THERE HOLY DAYS?

By Gregory Dullum

Some people claim the Sabbath and holy days are NOT holy. They say time *cannot be made holy.* What does the Bible say?

When God rested on the seventh day of creation, He "blessed the seventh day and sanctified it" (Gen. 2:3). To sanctify means *to set apart for holy purposes.* God made the seventh-day Sabbath a holy day! A day becomes holy when God makes it holy!

God said, "Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you ..." (Ex. 31:13-14). The Sabbath is *holy to us* and it *should be kept throughout our generations!*

God adds, "Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD" (v. 15). The Sabbath is not only holy to us humans, but it's *holy to God* as well!

The Bible tells us in no uncertain terms that the Sabbath IS A HOLY DAY and we are to rest: "Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be A HOLY DAY for you, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD" (Ex. 25:2, emphasis added).

Through the prophet Isaiah, God specifically calls the Sabbath *his* HOLY DAY: "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding

your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words ..." (Isa. 58:13).

The Sabbath is a time to cease doing our own *physical* WORK and PLEASURE. It is time to focus on *spiritual matters.*

Holy days have holy convocations. We come together in church services to worship God on ALL of his *holy days.*

There are seven annual Feasts listed in Leviticus 23. Most of the Feasts are holy days but a few are not. Passover is a Feast but NOT a holy day; it has a holy convocation, but *we can work on that day.* The Feast of Unleavened Bread lasts seven days. The first and seventh are holy; the middle five are not holy (unless one is the weekly Sabbath). The Feast of Tabernacles also lasts seven days but only the first day and weekly Sabbath are holy.

The Sabbath and holy days are mentioned in the New Testament too; they were kept by Jesus, the apostles and the early church.

Paul told the Colossians: "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days" (Col. 2:16 *KJV*). The Colossians were being judged for keeping the Sabbath and holy days, but Paul told them not to let the criticism bother them. Instead of doing away with the observance of holy time, Paul emphatically stated, "Let us keep the feast" (1 Cor. 5:8).

God MADE the Sabbath and the seven holy days HOLY! It is very important to Him that his people KEEP THEM HOLY!