

# THE BULLETIN

**THIS WEEK:**

- Sunday:  
Bible Study & Worship
- Monday:  
Fl. School of Preaching Class
- Wednesday:  
Bible Study  
Coffee with Christians

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- February 6<sup>th</sup> –  
Teen Dinner
- February 8<sup>th</sup> –  
Ladies Night Out
- February 12<sup>th</sup> –  
Pre-teen Devotional
- February 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>  
Yes Weekend

**PRIVILEGED TO SERVE:**

Month of January

Announcements:  
Luther Honey

Singing:  
a.m. – Mark Nortz  
p.m. – John Loanzon  
Wed. – Luther Honey

Prayer:  
Luther Honey

Bible Reading:

Preaching:  
Doug Frazier

Lord's Supper:  
Harry Collins  
Cliff Jones  
Tim Stanley  
Ben Stokes

Prepare communion  
Donna Lydon

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship:

February  
Mary Martin  
Sherrelle Kendrick  
Mary Pahman

## Why Do “Good” People Do “Bad” Things?

By Wayne Jackson

Some years ago a prominent Jewish scholar wrote a book titled, *When Bad Things Happen To Good People*. Though the book was not totally void of merit, it was flawed seriously in that the author suggested that whereas God might wish the situation were otherwise, he is powerless to remedy the problem of evil. The writer’s solution was a classic example of the old saying, “the cure is worse than the ailment.”

There is a question that is equally gripping. “**Why do good people do bad things?**” Of course all of us sin, and we daily need the grace of God (1 John 2:1). Occasionally, though, we are stunned, sometimes traumatized, when people we have known for many years, and for whom we have entertained the highest regard, do outrageous things that seem so terribly out of character for them. What has happened? We thumb through the pages of our minds trying to make sense of seemingly senseless deeds. Is there any answer? Let us briefly, and with reverence, explore this issue.

### The Mystery

In the first place we must concede initially that only God knows the inner recesses of a person’s mind. “Jehovah sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7; cf. Luke 16:15).

Experts may study a person’s past, pursue physiological and psychological tests, and engage in prolonged interviews with the “evil” person himself, and yet the causes of what appear to be random acts of wickedness may never be known completely. Paul contended that no person can really “know the things” of another (1 Corinthians 2:11), and sometimes it is the case that not even the “bad” person knows why he did what he did — though perhaps that “non-explanation” is more frequently than not a rationalization for not wanting to reveal the actual problem.

In this article, we would like to suggest some possible explanations for why “good” people do “bad” things.

### Irrationality

At the very start of this discussion we must concede that it is possible for a “good” person to slip into a state of irrationality (i.e., become incapable of reasoning, hence, be mentally irresponsible), and thus do things he would never do under normal circumstances. The causes triggering such aberrant behavior may be varied, and in some cases entirely unknown. If one has become irrational, therefore, and is not morally culpable, while the act itself technically is “bad,” it is not so for the perpetrator, for he does not comprehend the nature of his act.

## **Irrationality continued.....**

A very fine Christian man, an industrial painter by trade, committed suicide in a most horrible fashion. When many of his acquaintances heard the tragic news, they were dumbfounded. How could a gentle, caring person possibly do such a thing? An autopsy revealed that over many years noxious chemicals within the paint were absorbed, which seriously damaged his brain. His faculties for making spiritual decisions had been nullified.

I knew a deeply spiritual man who was as close to the Lord as anyone within my acquaintance. As he grew older he became consumed with cancer, his brain being seriously damaged. He gradually turned into a stranger, using the vilest profanity, and occasionally making lewd suggestions to ladies in his presence. The body was that of a good man; the words were from his pre-Christian past — still in the brain's storage, but not issuing from his godly soul!

Varying circumstances may alter a person's clarity of mind; they could be genetic, environmental, disease, etc., and consequently illness could lie behind his/her inexplicable conduct. These would be deeds for which one is not accountable. Unfortunately, this rationale is probably used to justify the person in more cases than is warranted. But God knows the truth and will do right by all (Genesis 18:25).

### **The Facade of Goodness**

Some “good” people, who do bad things, actually are **not** good people at all. They have feigned goodness out of various motives, but inwardly they have been corrupt for a long time. Though Judas Iscariot obviously had some good traits initially (otherwise he would not have been chosen as an apostle — see Acts 1:17), there were hints of his spiritual depravity before his actual betrayal of the Lord (cf. John 12:4-6).

Dennis Rader became known as the BTK serial murderer (BTK was a self-adopted code title for “bind, torture, and kill”). For some 30 years Rader appeared to be a model citizen. He was a Cub Scout leader, was active in his church, and had the respect of his associates. All the while he was periodically committing the most atrocious brutalities in the annals of American criminality. His arrest February 26, 2005 left numerous friends and associates in a state of absolute shock. He was a “good” man who wasn't!

It is not unusual for some prominent religious leader to be exposed as a deviant. Those of his religious fellowship are terribly traumatized by his exposure, only to learn that his perversion spanned several decades. The term “hypocrite” seems almost too tame for such creatures.

Here is an important point. A good person can never go through the motions of evil, for such would be evil itself, and therefore contrary to the principles of truth he holds dear. But a wicked person can mask himself in the disguise of goodness with little, if any, pangs of conscience. One more deception is scarcely a bother.

(Due to the length of this article and limited space, we will print the rest of this article within the next couple of weeks.) Thank you for your patience.

## **TO OUR VISITORS**

It is our sincere desire to help all men and women understand what God's will is for their life. Here at the Alachua Church of Christ, we stand ready and willing to help you with any needs you may have. Here are just a few of the services we offer: Marriage Counseling, Family Counseling and Addiction Counseling, free audiotapes of any lesson and In-home Bible Study. Feel free to make your request know. Ask any member of the congregation.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**REQUEST:** The elders have received a request from the Florida School of Preaching. Due to the financial difficulties that many are having at this time, the school is also having financial difficulties also. The elders have decided to increase our support of the school. We will be increasing our support to \$300.00 a month. The school has an extension class here at Alachua and there are several who are able to be a part of it and find it very rewarding. Please help us support this work in your prayers and financially.

### **SICK AND/OR INJURED:**

- Aunt Bessie may have separated her shoulder or fractured it. There is nothing that can be done for it. She is taking medicine for the pain. Please keep her and Cathryn and Della in your daily prayers.
- Terry Dickerson, the nephew of Ruth Gufford is in the VA hospital. Ruth has asked us to remember him in our prayers.
- Continue to remember Betty Hitchcock, Ann Ewing, Mike Elledge, Shirley Kirby, Sherrelle Kendrick, Carolyn Canady (Rhonda's Mom), Jean Gause, James Harrison, Rhonda Howe, Cristy Butts (cousin of Randy Howe), Edward Brown (cancer building at Shands).

Ann Ewing's Address: [Park Meadows Health & Rehab](#)  
3250 SW 41st Pl, Gainesville, FL 32608  
(352) 378-1558

Go south on 34<sup>th</sup> street, Cross over Archer Road, Turn left on 41<sup>st</sup> Place, One story facility on the left

**WATCH YOUR STEP:** There is work going on out in front of the building. Please do not disturb the area and be careful not to fall into the work area.

**TEEN DINNER:** We will be having our monthly teen dinner on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> following our PM service. We will be going to Moes in Alachua. Please make sure you bring enough money to pay for your meal.

**LADIES NIGHT OUT:** February 8<sup>th</sup> will be our monthly LNO. If you have a suggestion where we could eat please let Jessica know.

**YES WEEKEND:** It is time to start planning our annual YES weekend trip to Valdosta. YES is scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign up sheet posted in the back for those who are interested in attending. The Theme is "IT IS TIME..... TO OBEY, TO LOVE, TO CHECK ATTITUDES, TO SERVE, TO WORSHIP, TO CHOOSE." Cost is \$30 per person (includes 2 nights' hotel, Sat. lunch and dinner) T-shirt is by *pre-order only*, for additional \$10. Money for food – Friday dinner (fast food); Saturday and Sunday breakfast (fast food or the hotel we stay at may offer a continental breakfast) and Sunday lunch. Deadline for payment is **Sunday, 2/6**. Payment can be given to Doug or Jessica. Please see Jessica if you have any questions regarding the trip.

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Luther Honey

**Deacons:**  
Doug Frazier  
Mark Nortz  
Dwight Stokes

**Minister:**  
Doug Frazier

**Meeting Times:**  
**Sunday Morning**  
Bible Study: 9:30  
Worship: 10:30

**Sunday Evening**  
Worship: 5:30

**Mid-Week Bible Study**  
Wednesday 6:30

## Sunday Morning Lesson – Our Giving

1. One reason we should give to the Lord a part of our earnings is due to the simple fact that He \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God allows the sun to shine on the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. He sends the rain on the \_\_\_\_\_ as well as the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Lord not only gives the sun and the rain but He also supplies us with the \_\_\_\_\_ we need in life.
5. “Every good thing \_\_\_\_\_ and every \_\_\_\_\_ gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.” James 1:17
6. There are several things that the contribution is used to take care of:
  - a. To \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. To support the \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. To be used in \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. To purchase \_\_\_\_\_
7. Our giving should be a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What distinguished the widow in Mark 12:41-44 from all of the hefty contributors was not the amount of her \_\_\_\_\_ but rather the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ in order to accomplish the work of God.
9. We should not give God what we have \_\_\_\_\_ but we should give to God first.
10. We should give with a \_\_\_\_\_.
11. A cheerful giver is an individual whose giving is a \_\_\_\_\_ and who does it with \_\_\_\_\_.
12. God loves a \_\_\_\_\_ giver.
13. So when we give to the Lord let us give to Him \_\_\_\_\_, let what we give be a \_\_\_\_\_, and let us be a \_\_\_\_\_ giver.

**We're on the Web!**

[alachuachurchofchrist.org](http://alachuachurchofchrist.org)