

Bad Guys & Rascals — of the Bible

Q X D W N T A H A Z R R Z N M L M V I
 N Z H L V A T C F P R R K C A V A K N
 P W A O L O D J P H W I T J U B B S D
 J Q Q T R W W A B F E O L B A G A K O
 U E X F F A G P B B B K F H G S V L B
 X K Z K U O M N C H A I K E D E Z B W
 Z G K C X M N G U I R B L A K J B P I
 Y L B A B S A L O M B E A Q M Y M I I
 B T W S I W N S F B U Y H H S N L L N
 K F X N A I W A V H L K P O A E N Z H
 V Y J O E T Z H L L P E S K B K I F P
 J H F I Y T A E H Z H C A I N O I O O
 W B A K X Q P N A E K T T Z J I A M H
 F S T J X V N I E S G S A X A D G M S
 P T W D I R U H H A D L C I U H R F A
 C S I O E N B P S M P O O V L U S X D
 O Q Z M S K O T O S E B R N M O E J U
 A G D S W G G D H O H Z A E Q Y G X J
 U Q X P S O B G A N A I N S H Q S U U

Words to Find:

Absalom
 Adonijah
 Ahab
 Ahaz
 Cain
 Edlon
 Goliath
 Hazeal
 Herod
 Hophni
 Horam
 Judas
 Nabal
 Nadab
 Phinehas
 Rehoboam
 Samson
 Satan
 Zedekiah

Character

Author Unknown

Have you ever watched the icicle as it formed? Have you noticed how it froze, one drop at a time, until it was a foot long, or more?

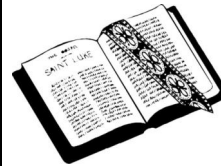
If the water was clean, the icicle remained clear, and sparkled brightly in the sun; but, if the wa-

ter was slightly muddy, the icicle looked foul, and its beauty was spoiled. Just so our characters are formed. One little thought or feeling at a time adds its influence. If each thought be pure and right, one's character will be lovely, and will sparkle with happiness; but, if impure and wrong, there will be deformity and wretchedness.

"Too many Christians soil their name when they impersonate an unsaved person."

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Your Name

Bill Brinkworth

One of the most important things you will ever own is not your house, your intelligence, your good looks, nor your wealth. Your most valuable asset is your name.

When your name is uttered, what connotation does it bring to the hearers' ears? Do they first

contemplate, "Oh, he has lied in the past, so chances are what he says may not be the truth"? When you are mentioned, do they giggle and remember all the foolish things you have done; and because of your past, refuse to take anything you do seriously? Does the label "adulterer" flash through their minds when you are mentioned, because of sinful behavior in the past? Are you branded as a cheat forever, because of being caught in class many years ago? When



"hard worker" is mentioned, is your name the first one they think of? Are you always remembered positively, because of your concern and care of others?

What we do or say usually burns an impression in someone's mind of who they think we are, and what they think of us and our character. It is an impression that is difficult to change or erase

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Bad Reputations

Bill Brinkworth

Unfortunately, people do not usually forget the wrong things we do. That is why it is best to avoid doing them in the first place, as it will be etched in others' minds permanently. Most of the good we have done can be wiped far from memories and replaced by the remembrance of the bad things we have done. Here are some historical figures, that are still remembered for their bad deeds:

⊖ **Attila, the Hun:** This emperor that lived after 400 A. D. is still remembered for his cruelty.

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Your Name

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from their memory. The value others put on our name often dictates how we will be treated by them. It may affect job placement; how we are treated in school, or even who will agree to marry us. Others' opinions and thoughts when our name is mentioned have a lot to do with who we are, and who we will be.

Most of the references in the Bible using "name" have to do with God's name. All through the Bible His name has earned others' respect. His name stands for justice, truthfulness, faithfulness, one who is able to do the "impossible", and the one to go to in time of need.

"O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" Psalms 8:9

The Bible does have something to say about the values our name can have. Here is some of what the Bible says our name can mean to others:

📖 The Bible says the reputation your name brings is of great value.

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."

Proverbs 22:1

📖 Do good and the right thing and your name will have a positive meaning to many. Do wrong and your name

will be forgotten, or it will not be a pleasant memory to those that know you. If your name has a negative connotation, it is usually no one's fault but your own.

"The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot." Pr. 10:7

📖 An ointment may be fragrant and smell good to many, but it will not affect as many as will one with a good reputation. The loss of such a wondrous person with a good name will be a great tragedy to those that were touched by their life. *"A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth." Ecc. 7:1*

📖 God will not honor the reputation of those that did not honor him.

"Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever." Psalms 9:5

📖 Those that love God will have a good reputation for doing so.

"But if any man love God, the same is known of him."

1 Corinthians 8:3

Our lives impact many. What impact did we leave in their minds when we interacted with them? What do others think when they remember us?

Bad Reputations

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☹️ **Billy, the Kid:** His real name was Henry McCarty, but he was also known as Billy the Kid and William Bonney. He is still remembered for killing over 20 people.

☹️ **Joseph Stalin:** Remembered for the terror he inflicted on the Russian people and for removal of private ownership of the property of his people.

☹️ **Adolph Hitler:** This German politician will never be forgotten for his ordering the murders of millions of people, including many Jews.

☹️ **Al Capone:** This American gangster is still remembered for his leadership of a crime syndicate, and the crimes he committed in the 1920's and 30's.

☹️ **Lee Harvey Oswald:** Although he was killed before he was tried in court, he is remembered as the murderer of President John F. Kennedy.

☹️ **Jack Kevorkian:** He is also known as "Dr. Death" because of his assisting over 100 people in killing themselves.

☹️ **Bill Clinton:** This former president's reputation is still overshadowed by his dishonesty to the American people and his act of adultery.

☹️ _____:
(Enter your name here.)

Is remembered for _____

_____.

A Rose

Barbara Brinkworth

According to William Shakespeare, "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." While that may be true, the name of something brings to mind immediately many characteristics of the thing mentioned. This is also true when the name of a person is mentioned.

Many people in the Bible have certain characteristics or images forever associated with their names. Some of these are positive and some negative. Here are a few of them:

Jezebel — *wickedness*

Ruth — *faithfulness*

Judas — *betrayal*

David — *giant slayer*

Moses — *great leader*

Elisha — *great follower*

Daniel — *courageous*

Sarah — *submissive*

Cain — *murderer*

Samson — *great strength*

When your own name is mentioned in conversation, what characteristics or images come into the minds of the people in that group? Susie, the encourager; Michael, the late one; Ethel, the giving one; Jerome, the negative one?

What your name represents to others is very important. If you are not content with what your name means to others, today would be a good day to start making some changes.

"If we take care of our character, our reputation will take care of itself."

To keep a good reputation: "Abstain from all appearance of evil." — 1 Thessalonians 5:22