

Settling Old Scores by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

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On January 24, 1972, a Japanese soldier, Shoichi Yokoi, was discovered in Guam, hiding in the jungle for 28 years, thinking World War II had not ended! Somehow, he had not received word that the War was over, and was so out-of-touch with reality, that he knew nothing of the modernization of Guam.

If this sounds surreal, today's world events are simply people "settling old scores" of history:

- Blacks (not all "Afros" are Americans!) hating whites because some of their ancestors were mistreated as slaves;
- Muslims resorting to violence against all Europeans because of the European Crusades centuries ago;
- Marxists destroying companies and countries for living on their earned profits;
- American Indians claiming reparations for white men's conquest of the country;
- Mexicans invading "their territories" in Texas, Arizona, and California;

And this hasn't even touched the other hateful battles throughout the rest of the world!

- (1) Anger and hatred held over to the next day is "malice," and it is a worldly attitude that is condemned and only corrected by the Gospel of Christ ([Ephesians 2:1-7](#); [4:26-27](#); [Titus 3:2-7](#));
- (2) Nothing done today can change what was done in the past. Past deeds can be lamented, God's mercy can be appreciated, and now, people can learn what needs repentance ([Nehemiah 9:1-38](#)), but people living in the present cannot settle matters that were unjustly done in the past. People can continue the sins of the past ([1 Kings 14:22-24](#); [22:51-53](#)) or continue the good from the past ([2 Kings 15:1-3](#), [32-34](#)), but no one changes the past.
- (3) Those demanding wealth today for what was done in the past show themselves to be motivated by covetousness rather than justice. Justice should not be "bought off" by bribery ([Proverbs 29:4](#)).

Stop fighting old wars which history has ended! Never forget that there is accountability for what is done ([Ecclesiastes 5:8](#)), and the Highest holds everyone accountable ([2 Corinthians 5:10](#)).

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Life should not be for “settling old scores,” because that is going for a “tie game.” Rather, we should strive to win our “crown of life” ([2 Timothy 4:6-8](#)) by obedience to Christ ([Mark 16:15-16](#)), and “not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” ([Romans 12:19-21](#)). Change the present and affect the future.

--- **John T Polk II**