

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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WHBQ-AM 560, Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:20 a.m.
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Ladies Bible Class (Sept. - May) 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

The greatest pleasures of life come to those who hear and obey what God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit command (II Pet. 3:1; II Tim. 3:16-17). The members at Getwell understand that no one of the Godhead speaks directly, nor dwells personally, in any individual today, but rather that He, God, and Christ dwell in us through the medium of the New Testament (Eph. 3:16-21).

The Holy Spirit is claimed by some to enter personally and directly into the Christian upon his obedience to the Gospel. We believe this to be a false thought, generally coming from a misunderstanding of Acts 2:38. Peter said to those on the beginning day of the Lord's church that they were to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins, and at that time they would receive "the gift of the Holy Spirit" or the new life in Christ (Eph. 1:3). These did not receive the Holy Spirit personally and directly but did receive the "gift" of salvation given to those who enter into Christ (Jn. 6:63). Some consider this to mean that they received miraculous power. But we learn in the same chapter that the apostles were the ones on that day who performed wonders and signs, not the one hundred and twenty (Acts 2:43). Acts 19 declares that those baptized then received "the gift of the Holy Spirit" of Acts 2:38, but until the laying on of Paul's hands they could not work miracles or possess one of the spiritual gifts spoken of in I Corinthians 12. Simon saw that by the laying on of the apostles hands the Holy Spirit (or His power) was given, and he offered the apostles money that he might have that power (Acts 8:18). The power to convey these gifts died with the death of the apostles and with those on whom they had laid their hands. We in the church of Christ today receive what some have termed "the ordinary gift" of the Holy Spirit, or the new life in Christ, as we are directed by the Word of God (I Cor. 2:9-11; Gal. 3:1-2).

Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .

Gary Colley

All One Has To Do To Be Saved Is Believe?

“Faith only,” or “all one has to do to be saved is believe,” is a widely taught and believed doctrine of denominationalism, but which is not found in the Bible. False security about our eternal welfare is dangerous! We may “feel” we are right with God, but feelings may be deceiving and are deceiving when we are unable to find such teaching in the Bible. The only saved believers found in the Bible are those who obeyed the Gospel by hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, and being baptized (Gal. 5:6; II Thess. 1:7-9). Please read the words of Christ for yourself (Mk. 16:15-16). Notice some examples:

Saved Believers

1. Citizens of Samaria became saved believers by being obedient to the command of Christ. They heard and believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ and were baptized, both men and women (Acts 8:5, 12).

2. Simon is another example from the New Testament of one who, as a believer, became a saved believer when he obeyed the Lord’s command to be baptized. The Bible says, “Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip” (Acts 8:13).

3. The Queen’s Treasurer, the Ethiopian Eunuch, had traveled a great distance to Jerusalem in his chariot as a religious man for worship. But after hearing the Gospel of Christ from Philip and realizing his lost condition, he asked to be baptized to become a saved believer. After confessing his faith in Christ, he was baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 8:35-39; 2:38).

4. John records by inspiration that believers have the power to become saved believers. “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name” (Jn. 1:12).

Jesus did not say that one becomes a child of God, a saved believer, by faith alone, but He did say that one who does believe in Christ has the power to become God’s child. Our faith should make our hearts receptive to Gospel obedience (Heb. 5:8-9).

To Be Saved One Must Obey the Gospel?

Though this is widely taught among religious people today, it is not to be found in the Bible. The only saved believers in the Bible were those whose faith was active and working in obeying the Gospel message (Gal. 5:6; Heb. 5:8-9). Though many accept the doctrine that all one has to do to be saved is to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, it is not Bible teaching. Let us study together:

Unsaved Believers

1. The demons believed on Christ, even trembled, yet were unsaved believers (James 2:19).

2. Thousands of Jews believed on Pentecost but were unsaved believers. They asked, “What shall we do?” Peter answered, “Repent and be baptized” (Acts 2:38).

3. Saul of Tarsus believed on Christ after being blinded on the Damascus Road, but he was an unsaved believer. He asked, “What will thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:6). The Lord answered, “Go into the city and it shall be told thee what thou must do.” The Lord sent Ananias to tell him, “Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins” (Acts 22:16).

4. John wrote of a group of Jews who believed in Jesus, yet they would not confess Him (Jn. 12:42). They were unsaved believers. Jesus teaches that, if one refuses to confess Him, he will not be confessed before the Father (Matt. 10:32-33).

These Bible examples prove conclusively that a person can believe on Jesus Christ as the Son of God and still be an unsaved believer eternally lost. All need to allow their faith to work in obedience, by love for God and Christ (Gal. 5:6). The Bible is right and cannot be wrong, regardless of men’s theories.

RON'S REMINDERS



Gambling (Part 2)

With this writing we will continue to look at the sin of gambling. I did have one member state that they were not sure gambling was a sin. Hopefully, we will explore that argument with this writing.

We left off at my last article with defining the words gambling and gamble and what they entail. Funk & Wagnall defines the word gamble: To risk or bet something of value on the outcome of a game of chance. It comes from the Old English word *gamenian*, which meant to sport or play. Gambling is not just taking a risk—life is a risk. Remember, we are told our life “is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

Many endeavors in life involve risk. For example, driving in Memphis traffic can be risky. There are risks involved in farming. A farmer makes a profit from last year's crop, invests it in seed, fertilizer, and equipment, and plants a crop for the next harvest in anticipation of making a profit. There is risk involved in this farming endeavor. You are counting on the seed producing, blight and insects not infesting your crop, the weather cooperating, and that there will be a market for the fruits of your labors. Definitely a risk, but a well thought out risk. There is risk in any type of business. You are an inventor and invent a new type of widget, but someone at the same time invents a better widget. You buy a house in hope that the value will increase. You invest in a company in hope that the company will turn a profit. You buy life insurance or accident insurance to protect yourself against the daily risks of life.

Where there is reasonable and manageable risk, you don't have gambling. Gambling is a game. It is not a game based on skill, reason, or

anything controllable. It is a game based on pure chance. Random chance without skill makes up gambling. It is not like a sport where an athlete competes for a prize based upon his skill and strength or his opponent's lack thereof. My son Noah runs cross country for Freed-Hardeman University. In anticipation of competing, he trains regularly, gets enough rest, eats properly, and has the proper foot wear. The outcome of the race is not a gamble but a result of skill and training.

Gambling is an appeal to sheer chance where you have no control. It is an activity where a person risks something of value, usually money, to forces of chance at the mercy of factors beyond his control, in hope of winning something of greater value. There is a superstitious belief that the more times you gamble your odds for success increase, which tends to make gambling an addictive force.

Gambling has devastating effects on those who participate. First, it creates wealth for a very few at the expense of the masses, mostly the poor. Those in the \$10,000 and below income bracket spend four times as much over those in higher income brackets. Gambling is the exploitation of the poor, the uneducated, and the undisciplined. It encourages laziness and takes away needed funds for the necessities of life. Our government is an accomplice in robbing the poor and demeaning the benefits and results of hard work. It breaks up marriages, ruins families, and provides a fertile ground for crime.

We will continue the subject of gambling with my next article.

—Ron Wallace