

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
Getwell Church of Christ

1511 Getwell Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38111-7299

Phone: (901) 743-0464

Fax: (901) 743-2197

E-Mail: mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org

Web Site: www.getwellchurchofchrist.org

ELDERS

W. T. Hardwick
Dewey Murray
Ransom Reaves

MINISTERS

Gary Colley
Daniel P. Phillips
Ron Wallace, Youth

Publishers of
THE SPIRITUAL SWORD

Alan E. Highers, Editor

Home of
The Spiritual Sword Lectureship
Gary Colley, Director

Radio Program
The Truth in Love
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.

Volume LVI

June 8, 2015

Number 22

ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

Would you be interested in knowing more about the Getwell church of Christ? If so, we encourage you to open your computer to our website at www.getwellchurchofchrist.org. There you will find information about our work. You will also be able to listen to some of the sermons from Getwell. We hope you will find this interesting and informative.

An unknown poet wrote about Heaven in the following way:

When God calls me home to Heaven—What great rejoicing there will be!
When angels sing my welcome,
And Jesus' arms reach out to me.

Great joy gives my heart a longing to behold my Savior's face!
It will be a day of praising, sheltered firm in His embrace!

I'm not worthy of this dwelling---Beautiful mansion up above!
It's prepared for saints of the ages, Who know HIS REDEEMING LOVE!

I'M LONGING TO LEAVE THIS WORLD OF MISERY,
And to be at "Home" WHERE ALL IS BRIGHT,
To live in a celestial city, And be clothed in robes of white!

May we encourage each one today who has not made their preparations to enter this "city" (Heb. 11:10), to obey the Gospel today! (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6; Lk. 13:3; Matt. 10:32-33; Mk. 16:15-16; Rev. 2:10).

Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .

Gary Colley

Matthew 19:6 speaks particularly about the marriage relationship and mentions, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Only two things can desolve a marriage in God's sight: Adultery (Matt. 19:9) and Death (Rom. 7:1-5).

God Hath Joined – In Marriage

Jesus had just referred (Matt. 19) to God's original law concerning marriage: "Therefore shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). He quotes Moses' Law in answering the Pharisees who came tempting Him but shows His law to be superior to that Law now removed (Col. 2:14; Heb. 10:9-10). Several lessons are definitely given because God has joined a man and his wife together in marriage:

1. They begin a new home; both parties joined must be ready to leave the domain of father and mother.
2. They are to "cleave" (as if glued) to one another, letting no one or thing come between them.
3. They are to be "one" in purpose, design, and aim, for life.
4. Warning is given that no one is to break this marriage asunder (divide it), since God hath joined it together."

God Hath Joined – Faith and the Bible

One noted preacher said, "If all the time that I have spent praying for faith was put together, it would be months. I thought that some day faith was going to come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not come. One day I read Romans 10:17, 'So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.' I had closed my Bible and prayed for faith. *Now I opened my Bible and began to read God's word, and faith has been growing ever since.*"

The truth of Romans 10:17, "Faith comes by hearing God's Word," is also emphasized in Acts 15:7, "that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the Gospel and believe." And, Acts 18:8, "the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized." Faith and the word of God are

inseparable. "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

God Hath Joined – Christ and the Church

Often individuals are heard to say, "I want Christ, but not the church," or, "I believe one can go to Heaven without being a member of the church." If these thoughts are from the Bible, we should all receive and defend them. But are they? In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised to build His church. Paul made the comparison to not "putting asunder" (dividing) the marriage vows to not putting asunder Christ and His church. God had joined them both! Notice Paul's inspired words, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Eph. 5:31-32). Further, Paul stated, "And (God) hath put all things under his (Christ's) feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). Since the church is the fullness of Christ, if one is in Christ, he must of necessity be in His church (Acts 2:41, 47). Therefore, God hath joined together the church and Christ. "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

God Hath Joined – The Blood of Christ and Baptism

God has in every age of the world required the offering of blood as a sacrifice for sins. "And without shedding of blood is no remission" (Heb. 9:22). Jesus, "the lamb of God" for the sin offering (Jn. 1:29), said he shed His blood "for many for the remission of sins" (Matt. 26:28). His blood was shed in His death, on Calvary (Jn. 19:34). Therefore, for man to receive the benefits of Jesus' blood, they must come in contact in some way to the death of Christ. Paul answers as to how this is done: "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were *baptized into his death*? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death" (Rom. 6:3-4). God hath joined together the blood and baptism. Have you been baptized? "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

RON'S REMINDERS



Gambling (Part 3)

We will continue with our study of the sin of gambling. The proponents of gambling use the argument that gambling will attract and build up businesses. This was especially true as they brought gambling into Atlantic City. Since Atlantic City legalized gambling in 1976, population has shrunk 20%, unemployment has risen, crime is higher, the police force has doubled, nearly 100 businesses have closed, and four of the past six mayors have been indicted for corruption, and three are currently serving jail terms. Gambling does not eliminate social ills; it encourages their growth—social ills such as poverty, family breakup, indebtedness, alcohol related abuses, drug trade, and prostitution. These above stated social ills follow gambling wherever it is legalized. Everywhere around a gambling area street crime is elevated. Central City, Colorado, had to double its police force after five casinos opened.

Where gambling operates crime rises. To gamble you need money. People get addicted to gambling. They steal, rob, and pillage to get their hands on funds needed to gamble. For example, Las Vegas has one of the highest crime rates in the country. Nevada has the highest incarceration rate in the nation. Forty percent of the felons jailed in Nevada are from out of state. Gambling attracts the criminal element because they view gambling operations as fertile fields for illegal easy money. Nevada has the highest personal bankruptcy rate in the nation. Nevada has the highest per capita alcohol rate in the nation. Many casinos give away alcohol. They “comp” drinks to patrons because alcohol

loosens moral restraints and common sense, so people gamble away the farm, so to speak. They come away bleary eyed and broke. I did not check the suicide rate in Nevada, but I would assume it is elevated compared to the rest of the nation. I have read that in the casinos themselves there are no windows or clocks so participants will lose track of time while gambling. Along with comping or giving away free drinks, they comp many other items to attract patrons to their casinos. For example, free buffets, free or discounted shows, free or discounted rooms, and various other come-ons. In the Memphis area there are shuttles that run to the casinos in Tunica. Anything to make gambling more attractive and appealing.

In 1994 the FBI found that criminals committed five times more violent crimes than the police can solve. On a side note, one can see why the TV show “C.S.I.” is such a hit, being based in Las Vegas. It seems to me the writers of this drama have to do little writing but simply peruse the local police files. As I finish this part of my article concerning the criminal connection to gambling, let me say I am not picking on Nevada. Nevada is a beautiful state with good people, but, unfortunately, gambling and prostitution have corrupted the state.

Obviously, gambling is a social problem but also a sin problem. You will not find the word gamble in the Bible, and you will not find the commandment “Thou shalt not gamble,” but in my next article we will begin to explore why it violates Christian teachings and principles.

—Ron Wallace