Our work at Getwell continues to be rewarding, purposeful, and enjoyed. The love of each member for one another is evident, and this helps to spread the Gospel to the world. If you are not receiving *The Spiritual Sword*, you are missing a great help in going to Heaven. The good editorship of brother Alan Highers is unmatched and greatly appreciated. Souls around the world are being taught, strengthened, and prepared for eternity. For only $8.00 per year you can be receiving this help for yourself.

Judgment Day will be very revealing and final. It will all be in the hands of the Son of God (Acts 17:30-31). Even the secret aims, desires, motives, and passions will be judged in that Day. Nothing can be hidden from our Lord. We are in this life only able to see the outward actions of our fellowman, but the Lord will see and reward according to the hidden things of the heart (Rom. 2:16). When that Day comes, only our character will make the difference of our being saved or lost eternally. Many should tremble at the thought that the things which perhaps have for many years been concealed will then be made public. We will be able to practice our secrets and disguises no longer. Each one of us should think seriously about how it will be with us in the last great Day! Today is the day of salvation. Please take advantage of your opportunity to save your soul (II Cor. 6:2).
That Gambling Is a Sin?

The word “gambling” is not found in the Bible, but this is not to say that the practice does not conflict with the principles set forth and condemned in the Bible! The practice of gambling, whether for bingo, slot machines, horse racing, or buying chances, is simply thievery by consent! It is contrary to God’s command to Adam after his sin in the garden of Eden: “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground” (Gen. 3:19). Gambling is gain by the sweat of someone else’s brow. It is an attempt to get something for nothing. It has been legalized in some states and is simply legalized stealing. Paul wrote, “Let him that stole, steal no more; but rather let him labor, working with his hands that thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him that hath need (Eph. 4:28). Gambling wrecks homes, promotes laziness, and quenches the desire for honest work which God commands. Again Paul writes, “Look therefore carefully how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise; redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:15-17). Gambling is covetousness, based on greed, which breeds dishonesty, deceit, drug abuse, prostitution, and an inordinate love for money (cf. Col. 3:5). The Bible says the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (I Tim. 6:6-10). One correctly said, “Gambling is a form of entertainment that robs the poor, corrupts the national character, and erodes the moral fiber of our nation.” Statistics on the real impact of casinos, river boats, and other places of betting, show more than the strong gambling lobby wants the public to know:

--Three years after the arrival of casinos, Atlantic City rose from 50th to 1st in the nation among cities in per capita crime.

--One year after Mississippi welcomed casinos, bank robberies increased from 1 to 13; armed robberies tripled.

--Biloxi, Mississippi, has averaged 400 additional crisis calls for spousal and child abuse per month since the advent of casinos.

--Americans will legally wager more money this year than they will spend on food.

Gambling is sin!
The Indestructible Word

The psalmist said, “For ever, 0 Lord, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89; cf. 1 Peter 1:23-25).

Someone said, “His words have passed into laws, they have passed into doctrines, they have passed into proverbs, they have passed into consolations, but they have never passed away.” It stands, though infidels may attack it (Jeremiah 36:22-25).

When Antiochus Epiphanes became ruler in Syria in 175 B.C. he destroyed the Jewish temple, sold the people of Jerusalem into slavery, and sought to do away with their sacred writings, forcing Greek culture upon the Jews. This was all done in an effort to substitute Zeus worship for the worship of God. Frank E. Hirsch in, “Abomination of Desolation,” wrote, “The observance of all Jewish laws, especially those relating to the sabbath and to circumcision, were forbidden under pain of death. The Jewish cult was set aside; in all the cities of Judaea, sacrifices must be brought to the pagan deities. Representatives of the crown everywhere enforced the edict. Once a month the search was instituted, and whoever had secreted a copy of the law or had observed the rite of circumcision was condemned to death.” However, God saw to it that efforts to destroy the sacred writings of the Old Testament failed.

Roman emperor Diocletian decreed death for any person who owned the Bible. After two years he boasted, “I have completely exterminated the Christian writings from the face of the earth.” In fact, he is said to have erected a monument over the ashes of burned Bibles. However, when Constantine came to the throne and desired copies of the Bible, offering a reward to anyone who could deliver one, within twenty-five hours fifty copies of God’s word were offered to the emperor.

Voltaire was a notorious French infidel. In 1778, he boasted that within one hundred years the Bible would be no more. Later, the very press that printed the blasphemous prediction was used to print Bibles, and the house in which he lived was used by the Geneva Bible Society to store Bibles and as a distribution center.

Bob Ingersoll, an American agnostic, once held a Bible up and boasted, “In fifteen years I will have this book in the morgue.” Within fifteen years, Ingersoll was in the morgue; however, the word of God lives on.

—Wendell Winkler

House to House ~ Heart to Heart

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The Southaven congregation will have a Gospel meeting April 17-21 with B. J. Clarke proclaiming God’s Word. The theme is “Modern Man and Bible Authority.” The evening lessons will be at 6:00 Sunday and at 7:00 Monday through Thursday. Following are the topics for each night:

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Speak Where The Bible Speaks

Monday Evening 7:00 p.m.  
Be Silent Where The Bible Is Silent

Tuesday Evening 7:00 p.m.  
Call Bible Things By Bible Names

Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.  
Do Bible Things In Bible Ways

Thursday Evening 7:00 p.m.  
Where Does God Tell Me What He Wants Me To Do?

Also, another event in the area has come to my attention: Forest Hill Church of Christ will conduct a Vacation Bible School June 6-8. The theme will be “The Mystery of Christ.”

—Ron