

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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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

July 6, 2015

Number 26

ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

When Paul wrote to the churches of the first century, it was always with the idea of condemning sin and giving encouragement. His inspired words were generally words of courage, hope, and confidence to the churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16). They were words of help, favor, and support to individual Christians. Though we live two-thousand years this side of the life of Christ and the apostles, we are still lifted up by God's Word. No other teaching or book is able to give such encouragement! The influence of their declarations still encourages and causes us to remain faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ.

There were no words of compromise in the teaching of Christ and the apostles (Gal. 1:8-9). We must not compromise either on:

The name of Christ (Acts 4:12);
The Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16);
The church of Christ (Eph. 3:21);
The plan of Salvation (Acts 8:12; 18:8);
The perfect example of Christ (I Pet. 2:21-22);
The sacred Scriptures (II Pet. 1:21);
The authority of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20);
The purity of life (Tit. 2:11-12);
The purpose of our existence (Phil. 2:20-21);
The hope of heaven (Tit. 1:2).

May all Christians be built up and strengthened continually in the most holy Faith (Jude 3).

Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .

Gary Colley

The Real Elite People of the World? (III)

We have been searching for *the real elite* people of the world. Just as the world recognizes its own by worldly standards, so we have learned that the right standard of measuring *the real elite* is the Word of God (II Tim. 3:16-17). These have their names enrolled in God's book of life. Following their obedience to the Gospel, God added the names of the saved (Acts 2:38, 41, 47). When the Judgement Day comes, *the real elite*, who have followed Christ and come into His church, will hear "come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:34). When Jesus calls all before His throne, He will first open *the book of law under which each lived, then the Book of Life to make comparison* (Rev. 20:11-12). The *Patriarchal* was a *family religion* lasting 2500 years. The *Jewish* was a *national religion* lasting 1500 years. But the *Christian*, under which all now live since the cross, is an *individual religion* lasting to the end of this world (I Cor. 15:24; Matt. 28:18-20).

Faithfulness in the Christian Age

As in other ages, there is also an *elite group* today! They are called Christians. Many Gospel

preachers, elders, and other Christians could be named! It is not for popularity or the praise of men that makes these men among *the elite* (Jn. 12:42-43). It is not their wit, or willingness to bend to the wishes of the sins of the people. Rather, it is their stalwart stand for Truth which sets them apart. They find their heroes in Jesus, Peter, and Paul. They go into the field of labor looking for a work, in which they may serve and help as many as possible go to Heaven. Their willingness to study, prepare, and be ready unto every good work, without fear or favor, presses them to the top of usefulness in the Lord's kingdom! Their convictions from the Word are not for sale (II Tim. 4:1-8). These men do not keep their ears to the ground before making their decisions, where Truth is involved. It is our prayer that more and more will qualify to join this elite group of faithful servants! Having an "honest and good heart" (Lk. 8) and using our talents to the best of our ability, we, too, can be among this elite, group of the Christian Dispensation and finally hear the Lord say, "Well done!"

RON'S REMINDERS



Gambling (Part 6)

Hopefully, with this week's article we can conclude our series on gambling. Let us be aware that gambling violates several Biblical principles. Some feel that gambling violates two of the Ten Commandments: "Thou shalt not steal" and "Thou shalt not covet" (Ex. 20:15, 17). I believe a case could be made for both arguments. Gambling also falls under the condemnation of I Timothy 6:10: "For the love of money is the root of all evil." People go to the gambling tables because they love money.

The practice of gambling breaks the two greatest commandments, found in Matthew 22:37-39: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Gambling also conflicts with Matthew 6:24 where we are reminded we cannot serve two masters, God and mammon. In gambling, mammon is their god. And as stated earlier in this series, Gary McDade has pointed out that gambling definitely breaks the "golden rule" given by our Lord.

Gambling is based on materialism, greed, discontent, exploitation, laziness, distrust of God's provision, disdain for the rewards of labor, and irresponsible stewardship. Gambling is not good stewardship; it is not stewardship at all. Psalm 24:1 reminds us that the earth is the Lord's. One of my favorite verses is Psalm 50:10: "For every beast is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." Everything belongs to God; man has nothing that is not from God. Even my children are on loan from God. So everything we have and do is to the glory of God. Gambling does nothing to glorify God.

Matthew 25 gives the best illustration of stewardship. Starting with verse 14 the master

gives one man five talents, one man two talents, and one man one talent. Let us not overlook one small phrase, "according to his several ability." Each man was not given more than he could handle. The five and two talent men doubled the number of talents they had been given. The one talent man went and buried his talent and had no increase to give his master. The master called him a wicked and slothful servant and ordered him cast into outer darkness. There are three adjectives used to describe the one talent servant: wicked, slothful, and unprofitable. These same three adjectives can be used to describe a participant in gambling. The one talent man did not lose his talent, but he did not use it to God's glory. What about the gambler who takes what God has given him and wastes it away buying lottery tickets, betting on horses and dogs, or at the gaming tables at the casinos? Outer darkness await the gambler, also.

I hope this series of articles on gambling have proven helpful to my readers. I hope it will serve as a deterrent to anyone who is thinking about gambling or help bring you out of gambling.

Local Reminders

Don't forget our "Shoes for Andrew" shoe drive to help raise funds for a new transport van for Andrew Sanders. There is a collection bin in the north foyer.

Let us not forget our commodities drive for Potter Children's Home. The items needed are listed in this week's bulletin, and there are collection baskets in the various foyers.

Lastly, thanks goes out to all who helped out and brought food for our Foundations Class guests last Wednesday evening.

--Ron Wallace