

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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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 work at Getwell continues to go forward. We rejoice in those who participate in the services, whether they are in the pulpit, the classrooms, or in the pews. Our men do an especially fine work in offering the invitation on Wednesday evenings! We have discovered in them some wonderful talents. The Psalmist wrote: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore" (Psa. 133:1-3). We continue to strive to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

We often wonder where those who came to worship on Sunday morning have gone on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening. Is there some other place that is more important for us to present ourselves during these hours of worship? When the elders give their report of us in the day of Judgment, which surely they must, what can they possibly say? The Hebrew writer reminds us, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:17). We hope this "word of warning" will be seriously considered!

Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .

Gary Colley

The Importance of the Cross?

The golden thread of God's love and redemption for sinful man is found throughout the Bible. The blood sacrifices of the Old Testament were typical of the blood Christ shed on the cross. The command to Abraham to offer Isaac, the child of promise, typically expresses God's love and offering of His own Son (Gen. 22). Jesus' blood ratified the New Covenant by which all can be redeemed (Matt. 26:28; Heb. 5:8-9). His blood was shed "for" (in order to) the remission of sins, just as baptism now is "for" (in order to) the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). The "preaching of the cross" is to many foolishness today, but it is still the only power of God for salvation (I Cor. 1:18; Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16:15-16).

Paradoxes

We find the greatest of all paradoxes in the Cross of Christ! "Paradox" means something seemingly self-contradictory but really founded on Truth. THE CROSS IS:

1. The most tragic murder in the history of the world, YET the most wonderful event that ever happened!
2. The saddest spectacle man ever beheld, YET out of it came the greatest joy!
3. Satan's greatest victory and Christ's most humiliating defeat, YET the most stunning defeat Satan ever suffered and the most glorious victory Christ ever won!
4. The greatest exhibition of divine justice in condemning sin, YET the most wonderful demonstration of divine mercy in pardoning sin.
5. God's greatest manifestation of hatred for sin, YET God's supreme proof of love for the sinner!
6. The means by which God's justice condemned sin, YET the exhibition of His mercy in forgiving sin!
7. The darkest hour in history, YET the time of greatest light to the world!
8. The greatest hatred of man for Christ, YET we see Christ's love for man!
9. The cross portrays man's sinfulness, YET God's holiness!
10. Man's human weakness, YET God's Divine strength.
11. Man's inability to save himself by his own plan, YET God's ability and power, by grace, to do this for obedient man!
12. The cross from the human standpoint is foolishness, YET it is a revelation of the highest wisdom of God!

RON'S REMINDERS



Gambling (Part 4)

We will now look at some Biblical principles that gambling violates. Gambling is immoral because it takes away from the wealth and income of honest labor. Secondly, it takes away from funds available to help the less fortunate. Instead of helping the poor, it exploits the poor. Thirdly, it demeans and cheapens the work ethic. The American dream used to be that if you work hard you will get ahead. Now, the American dream is to win the lottery and not have to work anymore. God has dignified work since the beginning of time. The cheapening of the work ethic dulls the incentive to get ahead. It is immoral because it promotes irrationality as it does away with planning and reasoning and promotes the "get rich" promises of the lottery and gambling interests. Gambling is immoral because it preys on the weak and the vulnerable.

Let us look at some specific sins that gambling is based on. First, gambling is based on the sin of materialism. First Timothy 6:10 tells us the love of money is the root of all evil. The love of money or love of physical possessions is a perfect definition of materialism. Gambling is built on the love of money. Secondly, gambling is built on the sin of greed. It is built on the thinking that you never have enough and are never content with what you have. In Luke 12:15 Jesus warns us of the dangers of greed. Gambling is built on the sin of discontent; it is the very opposite of Philippians 4:11 where Paul says in whatsoever state he is in he has learned to be content. Basically, gambling is based on theft from others. For every winner in the lottery or casinos there are thousands of losers whose money wagered goes for the operation of the

gambling industry and to the few who actually win at the various games and lottery tickets. Those who choose to participate in the various games are victims who are lured into participation to waste their money. The gambling industry could not do better if it stuck a gun in your back and asked for your money. As a matter of fact, slot machines are sometimes called "one-armed bandits." Since gambling is a subtle form of theft, some believe it violates one of the ten commandments: "Thou shalt not steal" (Ex. 20:15). Gambling is built on laziness and wanting something for nothing.

Gambling is built on the sin of distrusting God, doubting God will supply all your needs, not all your wants. We are told in Philippians 4:19 that God will supply all our needs. Gambling is based on the "quick luck" philosophy. Gambling is irresponsible stewardship. I credit Gary McDade with bringing up the following point: gambling violates the golden rule. Let us not forget the admonition found in I Corinthians 10:31: "Whether therefore ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Gambling gives no glory to God but is a purely selfish endeavor.

Lastly, gambling takes away from the family. It takes income from the family. Divorce and suicide are much higher in the families of gamblers. First Timothy 5:8 tells us if a man fails to provide for his family he is worse than an infidel.

In my next article, I will explore if gambling is endorsed by the casting of lots on several occasions in God's Word.

— Ron Wallace