

The Southeast Sower

S O U T H E A S T C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

The Southeast
church of
Christ meets
at:

35 Walnut Ct.
Mogadore, OH
44260

Phone:
330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study:

10:00 am

Worship:

10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:

7:30 pm

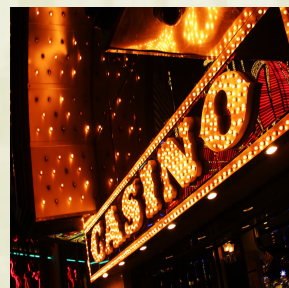
G A M B L I N G (E D H O L C O M B)

What's wrong with gambling? Many sincere folks want to know the answer to this question. The word does not appear in Scripture but that does not at all mean it is right. There are things which specifically are not mentioned in the Bible, yet they are condemned because principles contained in God's word when applied show it to be sinful. Missionary Societies, Sponsoring Church type cooperation, and Denominations are not mentioned but easily seen to be wrong because of principles they violate in the Word.

Gambling is wrong for it violates legitimate laws of exchange. These laws are: 1. Law of labor (mental or physical) or an earning by time, effort, and energy expended (Eph. 4:28); 2. Law of trade in which a commodity is exchanged for its value in money, service, or goods (Mt. 13:45); 3. Law of charity in which something is given without any desire of receiving a return (Gal.2:10).

Gambling is wrong because it manifests covetousness (Col. 3:5). It is also

wrong as it violates Bible teaching regarding temperance and contentment (Lk. 12:15; Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:8-10; Heb. 13:5). It is wrong, too, because it corrupts and destroys lives! Gamblers Anonymous



speaks of 10 million compulsive addicted gamblers. Who knows who will be the next one? The same sound arguments are made against alcohol, tobacco, sex, drugs, etc.

Gambling finances organized crime syndicates! Would this be a good thing for a saint to do? Gambling is evil because it violates the principles of good stewardship that the Scriptures obligate us to do (1 Pet. 4:10).

Gambling is an evil because it is against the golden rule principle of Jesus (Mt. 7:12). Its philoso-

phy is based on, "I'm going to beat you out of your money, before you beat me." Gambling exploits others and it is condemned by the Bible (Jas. 5:1-5; 2:1-7).

Gambling cannot be compared to stock market investment, insurance, etc. These are business, trade, commercial enterprises and economic actions. Money purchases something of value. Both are expecting to gain and benefit others. Sellers and buyers may both benefit or lose, but this is legitimate business. Compare the farmer who takes risk, but he does not expect something for nothing, nor profit at someone else's expenses. His success benefits all and harms no one.

The Christian must not engage in gambling but should, in fact, expose it (Eph. 5:11). Like Paul said; "For we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men (2 Cor. 8:21).

(*Note:* Article taken from , "Southeast Sower," Vol. III, Number XII, February 1991)

NEGLECTING GOD'S POWER TO SAVE!

How foolish it would be for a farmer to spend much time and effort preparing soil and planting his crops just to lose them to neglect. In order for crops to be ruined they do not have to fall prey to a hurricane, tornado, flood, hail, fire, or invasion of insects. No, just simply neglecting the crops will lead to their destruction. Why before you know it, the weeds take over and choke the very life out of what might have been a bountiful harvest.

So it is when it comes to the salvation of one's soul. In short, one does not have to commit fornication, adultery, murder, robbery, or be the vilest of criminals to be lost. No, all one has to do is simply **NEGLECT** (ignore) the gospel of Jesus Christ, God's power to save (Rom. 1:16). The Hebrew writer writes, *"For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we **NEGLECT** so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard him"* (Heb. 2:2, 3, NKJV).

Many calamities of life are cause by simple neglect; and I venture to say, that many souls will be lost for the same reason! *"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away"* (Heb. 2:1). - (V.T.)

"BAPTISM"

Probably one of the most controversial, not to mention abused Bible subjects, is baptism. The church of Christ has long been criticized by many for placing, what they feel, is undue importance on baptism. However, when one considers the following, one cannot help



but be impressed with the fact that baptism stands between the sinner and a number of things that are important.

1. Baptism stands between the sinner and salvation (Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

2. Baptism stands between the sinner and the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

3. Baptism stands between the sinner and the washing away of sins (Acts 22:16).

4. Baptism stands between the sinner and the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).

5. Baptism stands between the sinner and becoming a new creature in Christ (Gal. 3:27; 2 Cor. 5:17).

6. Baptism stands between the sinner and the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

7. Baptism stands between the sinner and the blood of Christ (Jn. 19:34; Rom. 6:1-6).

8. Baptism stands between the sinner and the death of Christ (Rom. 6:1 ff.).

9. Baptism stands between the sinner and the kingdom of Christ (Jn. 3:3-5).

10. Baptism stands between the sinner and a good conscience towards God (1 Pet. 3:21).

11. Baptism stands between the sinner and putting on Christ (Gal. 3:27).

Let no one think that I am saying that baptism alone saves. Faith, repentance, confession of one's faith in Christ are just as important and necessary in order to be saved (Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3, 5; Matt. 10:32, 33, etc.). However, not to be considered as unimportant is baptism. It is essential to salvation, and the honest Bible student will recognize its significance.

> Vernon Teagarden

"Food" For Thought:

"A church building is erected, not for those who would come for the hot coffee and doughnuts, but for those who come 'hungering and thirsting after righteousness'" (Eugene Britnell)

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