



Chalmette Church of Christ

January 25, 2009

“Gambling Is Still A Sin”

Gambling has become so common place in our society that many members of the church seem to have forgotten that gambling is still a sin. It falls under the sin of covetousness, which God condemns: "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Col. 3:5).

It is actually sad to hear members of the church that cannot discern between shopping at Winn Dixie for food which sells lottery tickets and doing something directly to support gambling. There is a major difference and Christians should grow enough to be able to tell the difference.

When you teach or preach against the sin of gambling and someone says "So I cannot buy gas at the truck stop then since they sell lottery tickets," and has done so to try and justify buying lottery tickets or doing something to help such promote the gambling industry has failed to use proper reasoning. And that type of reasoning is severely hurting the Lord's people.

We are to be different from the world: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Cor. 6:14-17). We are not to love those things that are evil: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust

of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:15-17).

We need to learn that getting ahead comes from a lot of hard work, not from throwing away your money on lottery tickets. You have a 50 percent better chance of getting struck by lightening than winning the lottery. You actually have a better chance of being harmed by your toilet bowl cleaner than winning the lottery (taken from *Odd Odds To Bet On* by Allen Webster). Even those that win money at the casino have already gambled more than the amount they won, and will likely gamble even more afterwards.

The lottery is only one source of gambling, there are others. Betting on the ball games, or betting on the horses are other forms of gambling. Some also seem to be misled into thinking that as long as you do not bet very much it is ok. However, the amount has nothing to do with it other than your losses will be larger. Some unwisely say buying insurance is the same thing. They aren't even close. Buying insurance is buying protection in case of a loss, gambling is not. Another weak argument is that all of life is a gamble. It is not. There is a great deal of difference in getting in your car and driving to church services and having the risk of being in an automobile accident, and going to the casino and throwing all of your money away and not be able to support your family. Driving your car is a necessary risk you must take to function in society, playing the slots is not.

Some do not understand the dangers of gambling because they chose not to listen: "fools hate knowledge" (Proverbs 1:22). I hope that it is not that way with you. May you be wise: "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17). "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen" (1 Thess. 5:18).

By: Mark Lance

A Hiding Place

Not long ago, this writer read a book entitled, *Anne Frank Remembered*. This is the story of the woman who helped to hide Anne Frank and her family. Miep Gies tells of how she helped to hide eight Jews from the Germans in the city of Amsterdam from July 1942 until August 4, 1944. They hid in secret rooms above the pectin and spice business which Mister Frank helped to run. They called it "The Annex." The entrance to these rooms on the third floor and fourth floor was concealed by a moving bookcase which could be locked. This was their hiding place, their place of refuge from the Germans. Only a select few were trusted with this secret.

Miep Gies, who worked in the business, supplied them with food and other essentials as she was able. In 1944 someone betrayed them. The Germans came and took the Jews prisoner and sent most of them to concentration camps in Germany to die. The youngest of the family, Anne Frank, wrote a diary of her two years in the hiding place, which Miep Gies hid immediately after the hiding place had been discovered. After the war, only the father, Otto Frank, still lived. He granted permission to have Anne's diary published in 1947. Since then, it has been read by tens of millions all over the world. It is among the most enduring documents of the twentieth century.

Man has often needed a hiding place. Proverbs 14:26 states, "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge." The Bible reveals several examples of God providing refuge for man. (1) Noah and his family found refuge from the flood in the ark (Heb. 11:7). (2) The Hebrews found security for their firstborn in the land of Egypt by putting the blood of the Passover lamb on the two side posts and on the upper door post of their houses (Exo. 12:13). (3) The cities of refuge, three on either side of the Jordan, provided protection from the avenger for anyone in Israel who had unintentionally caused death. These were places of refuge provided by God.

Likewise, God has provided a hiding place for us today where we may find refuge. "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us" (Heb. 6:18). It appears to this

writer that the Hebrews writer saw in the cities of refuge a type of the refuge which we have in Christ. We need refuge from doubt, from guilt, and from sin. The Christian has fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope that is set before us.

Only in Christ and in His Church is refuge found. Christ's body is the church (Col. 1:18). It is Christ who saves, and the church, which is His body, is where He puts the saved. Ephesians 5:23 says, "He is the savior of the body." Acts 2:47 says, "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Christ has not promised to save anyone today out of His body the church. One is saved, added to the church of Christ, and made a Christian all at the same time when one enters Christ. When one has trusted Christ (John 8:24), repented of their sins (Luke 13:3), and confessed Christ (Rom. 10:10), one is then baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27). At baptism he enters Christ and His body, the church. First Corinthians 12:13 says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." Christ has but one body. No other body has Divine approval.

This is God's plan and place of refuge today. Just as we find salvation and refuge in the ark, in the house covered by the blood, and in the cities of refuge of the Old Testament, even so God extends salvation today in Christ. If you are not in Christ and in that church of Christ about which we read in the pages of the New Testament, you are not in the place of refuge. Friend, have you found a hiding place in Jesus? Are you abiding there?

By: Mike McDaniel

WORKS WE SUPPORT

Gospel Broadcast Network

House to House Heart to Heart

Two students at the Memphis School of
Preaching

Curry Montague— Budapest

Morrne Stephanus- In Africa

Roger Scully- Morgan City Church of Christ

Kid's Korner

See if you can answer the following questions:

Answers from last week:

1. Athaliah 2. He was afraid of Jezebel 3. Thrown out and trampled by horses 4. Jehu 5. On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs will devour Jezebel's flesh

Jezebel

1. **What two things did Jehu ascribe to Jezebel just before he killed Joram?**
2. **What did Jehu say should happen to Jezebel's body after she died?**
3. **What Apostle was crucified?**
4. **Who fell on their sword after seeing that King Saul had killed himself?**
5. **Who lied to the Holy Spirit and fell dead?**

Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!



Cleaning Schedule

Month of January— Sherry and Melissa

Upcoming Events

January 30- Ladies Game Night

February 15- Singing and Fellowship Meal

Prayer List

Mary Jo Lance
Malcolm Vasquez
Muriel Jones
Joe Riley
Alice Riley
Maggie Fletcher
Bill Burchett
Buck Hall
Sherry Towle
Bob Spurlin
Catherine Grant
Kathleen Grant Dunn
Sonny Adams
Betty Grisham
Paul Roberts
Melinda London
Loyce Sexton



*All of our brethren scattered
across the United States

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200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438

Services of The Church Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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Grass Cutting

Schedule

January 25 - 31 Anthony Smith

