

ANNOUNCEMENTS**DEC 14, 2014****SICK LIST:****HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Ruby Harrison

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Michael Files, Henry McDonald, Lizzie Banks, Bruce Windham, Bettye Henderson, Jill Roden**PRAYER LIST:** April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Michael Pope, Robert Turner, Wonda Ivie, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, James Felton, Tommy Pope, J.D. Dailey, James Horsley, Brenda Holloway, Kathy Pate, Jake & Diane Chambers, Donna Laratta, Kathy Windham, Lane Clark, Arthur Mason, Kelly Tittle, John Pruitt, Madison Banks, Charles Crump, Martha Ann, Debbie Jackson, Diane Townley, Ralph Moon, Elesia Wright

AM - BEN WRIGHT - "THE PROBLEM OF GAMBLING"

PM - BEN WRIGHT - "COMMITMENT TO MARRIAGE"

MEN'S GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING TONIGHT AFTER SERVICES**REMEMBER THE HOLIDAY MEAL NEXT SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE BULLPEN IN OAKMAN****BIRTHDAYS:**

Dec 17: Peyton Preston

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST
26036 HWY 78
CARBON HILL, AL 35549
(205) 924-9038
westwalkerchurchofchrist.org

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING

Bible Class 9:30

Worship 10:20

SUNDAY EVENING 5:00

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00

ELDERS:

Gene McDonald 924-4827

Carlton Myers 221-0637

Neil Myers 924-9289

Bruce Windham 221-2348

DEACONS:

Danny Busby 387-0213

David Preston 300-1927

Kevin Richardson 295-8864

Chris Robbins 388-1354

Vince Roden 924-4062

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

THE PROBLEM OF GAMBLING (Matthew 7:12)

I. The _____.

- A. In essence, gambling is attempting to get _____ for _____.
1. However, to get that something for nothing, you have to risk the _____ of what you have.
 2. When no goods are produced, no service is rendered but a risk is _____, you are gambling.
- B. In reality, gambling is stealing by _____, but stealing none the less.
1. It is _____ to forcefully or otherwise take someone's goods or money from them.
 2. In principle, there is no _____ in doing it physically or by skill, talent, training or trick.

II. What is the _____ with gambling?

- A. The whole motivation behind gambling is _____.
- B. People _____ it in different ways.
1. Some say that it isn't about the money, it's about having _____.
 2. Or, it is about _____ the economy or supporting the government.
 3. If such is the case, why don't the casinos give the money back that their patrons _____?
- C. Since it is about the money, this makes it _____.
1. The word translated "covetousness" in the KJV means "a _____ desire to have more" according to Strong's.
 2. Paul listed it as one of the sins of the Gentile world that caused God to give them up to their own _____ (Romans 1:29).
- D. The deal with gambling is that it is simply a form of coveting and we know that is simply _____ (Colossians 3:5).

III. The _____ gambling causes.

- A. The ones that can _____ afford to gamble are those that do it the most.
- B. Studies have shown that where gambling is, theft, divorce, bankruptcy, violent crime, and spousal and child abuse rates are much _____.
- C. You and I, and everyone else, are to take care of the poor and elderly, not take _____ of them.
- D. One can't be a faithful _____ of that with which God has blessed him if he squanders it away gambling (1 Corinthians 4:2).

- E. Gambling breeds _____ and destroys the incentive to _____
(Ephesians 4:28).

A Worthwhile Fight Clay Bond

The Scriptures teach that each of us is involved in a spiritual battle with eternal ramifications (2 Cor. 10:3-5; Gal. 5:7-8). Heaven and Hell are at stake in our warfare. In this battle there can be no reconciliation. The combatants, flesh and spirit, will never be at peace (Gal. 5:17). There is no question about who will win, because the winner and loser are fixed. All that is left is for us to pick a side.

If we choose to live in fleshly lust, we have chosen the losing side and we must not expect to win this war (Rom. 8:13). To win, we must choose to be in Christ (Gal. 3:27) and to remain in Christ by abstaining from "fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (1 Pet. 2:11). If we are to be among the victors, we must make no "provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof" (Rom. 13:14).

This is the battle for the most precious commodity we possess, our souls. Jesus spoke of the value of the soul in Matthew 16:26 when He said, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Your soul is most definitely worth the fight.

Our enemy, the devil, is depicted as the tempter (Matt. 4:3), a murderer (John 8:44) and a deceiver (Rev. 12:9). He wants to take advantage of us and bring us into captivity (2 Cor. 2:11; Luke 22:31; 2 Tim. 2:26). He is like a roaring lion who walks around looking for someone to consume (Matt. 13:39; 1 Pet. 5:8).

Like a general at war, Satan has devices, methods and strategies to draw us away from God and His path (Eph. 6:10; Matt. 7:13-14). While it is absolutely true that "every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed", it is also true that Satan uses our natural desires to lure us off into the proverbial "far country" (Jas. 1:14). His desire is to see us in life's pigpen with the prodigal son of Luke 15.

The enemy's greatest and most effective weapons are "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16). We see the effects of this deadly trio in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve (Gen. 3), with Achan (Josh. 7), with David and Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11), with Judas (John 13:2), with Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5) and with so many Christians who have escaped Satan's captivity only to be entangled in sin again later on (2 Pet. 2:20).

So how is your battle coming? At this moment is the battle for your soul raging? Or have you escaped Satan's grasp by placing yourself under the power of the spirit (Gal. 5:16)? Is your life characterized by the fruit of the spirit? Do you exhibit characteristics such as love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith and self control (Gal. 5:22-23)? If not, you will find yourself on the losing side of this war. You will be controlled by your fleshly lusts and overtaken in things like drunkenness, sexual immorality, gambling, lying, theft, uncontrolled anger and hatred.

We said a lot about Satan and his activity, but here is the most important truth: Jesus Christ has already won this battle! When He won, He paved the way for us to triumph.

He prepared our escape and revealed to us spiritual truth that can set us free from sin and death (2 Cor. 2:14; 2 Pet. 2:20 & John 8:32). As Paul said, "thanks be to God, which giveth us the

victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57).