

Continued from front

those who accept an extra-biblical name and those who reject it. If Baptists may call themselves “Baptists,” then can others call themselves “Communionites” or “Prayerists”?

Again, Baptists will lose their soul because they do not submit to the will of God, but they are not the only ones. Methodists, Pentecostals, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Adventists, Mormons, and any others who are part of man-made religious groups will go to hell. Why? Because Jesus is “the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,” not of those who reject and rebel against His authority (Heb. 5:9; 2 Thes. 1:7-9).

However, there is hope. Anyone who is a Baptist can be saved. Since they already believe in Jesus as the Christ, all they need to do is confess Him with their mouth, repent of their sins, including religious sins, and be baptized for the remission of sins (Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38).

- Steven F. Deaton

Assemblies

Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Elders

Tom Brown 502-921-2778
Laymon Byers 502-957-3627
John Smith 502-231-5341

Evangelists

Ron Halbrook 502-955-1748
halbrook@insightbb.com
Steven F. Deaton 502-428-6323
sfdeaton@earthlink.net

Phone: 502-957-5115

**Sermons, Articles, and More at
hebronlanechurch.com**

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #10
Shepherdsville, KY

Church of Christ
3221 E. Hebron Lane
Shepherdsville, KY
40165-8959



Hebron Herald

Published by the Hebron Lane Church of Christ
Shepherdsville, KY

Volume 28 Number 11

November 2004

Why Baptists Will Lose Their Soul

Baptists are going to lose their soul because they do not submit to the authority of God. Jesus has all authority and expressed it through inspired men (Matt. 28:18; Jn. 16:7-15). Therefore, we are required to hear and heed the New Testament of Jesus Christ. “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Col. 3:17). “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Pet. 4:11). Baptists do not do this. Let’s look at a few points to prove this is true.

Baptists believe and teach that a man is saved at the point of faith alone. This contradicts the Bible. It teaches man cannot be saved by faith alone (Jas. 2:24-26; cf. Jn. 12:42-43; Gal. 1:10). One must not only believe, but also be baptized for the remission of sins (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

Baptists believe once you are saved, you are always saved. They call this “perseverance of the saints.” This doctrine lacks authority from God’s word. The parable of the sower shows that one may believe and then fall away (Lk. 8:13). Peter said those of “like precious faith” must make their “call and election sure” (2 Pet. 1:1, 10). Why does this need to be done if their “call and election” is already sure? Paul admonished Christians to work out their own salvation (Phil. 2:12). He also told believers to take heed lest they fall (1 Cor. 10:12). Why the warning if it is impossible to fall? The fact is, one who is saved can turn from the Lord and lose his salvation (2 Pet. 2:18-22; Gal. 5:1-4).

Baptists call themselves Baptist—a name not used in the New Testament to refer to Christians. John is called the “Baptist” (Matt. 3:1). However, this is not used in a formal manner or to identify him with a denomination. Rather, it is descriptive of his practice. The New Testament calls the followers of Christ disciples, believers, saints, brethren, and Christians (Acts 20:7; 1 Tim. 4:12; Phil. 1:1, 12; Acts 11:26). To adopt a designation not found in the Bible is to arrogantly assume man knows better than God. It also drives a wedge of division between

hebronlanechurch.com

Continued on back

Gambling VS. Love of God and Man

Though gambling has become socially acceptable and legal, it is not right according to what God teaches us in the Bible. God teaches us to love Him with all the heart, mind, and soul, and to love our fellowman as we love ourselves (Matt. 22:37-40). Everything else God teaches us depends on these two principles (vs. 40). "Love" in this sense comes from a Greek term, AGAPE, referring to the highest kind of love: a love based on principles of truth and right, and a love seeking the best interests of its object rather than mere self-gratification.

Since love of God and of fellowman must be the motives for all our conduct, how do these two principles relate to gambling? God teaches us that we may receive gain in ways which demonstrate love to all parties to any transaction. We may receive gain in the following ways: 1. The process of labor (Eph. 4:28); 2. Exchange of goods and services (Matt. 13:45-46); 3. Gifts (Matt. 6:1-4). Each of these methods of receiving gain is honest, showing respect for principles of truth and right and for the welfare of all parties involved.

Gambling is a wager on some chance event, with the result that the "winner" takes gain from others without respect for principles of truth and right and without seeking the welfare of all parties involved. Therefore, gambling is a means of taking dishonest gain. The fact that the other participants agreed to take part does not mitigate the dishonesty involved, any more than "kickbacks" in a business deal are mitigated from dishonesty by the agreement of the parties involved. Gambling is an exercise in covetousness, seeking mere self-gratification without regard for truth and right or the best interests of everyone involved.

Gambling is sinful, an offense against God and a curse to our fellowman. Because all of us have sinned from time to time, whether through gambling or other deeds, God sent His Son into the world to die for our sins (Rom. 3:23; Jn. 3:16). The death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary demonstrates both the justice and the mercy of God: Sin was punished (justice), but punished in a way which extends forgiveness to sinners (mercy). Thus, God proves Himself to be "just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26). Since God does not force anyone to receive this gift of His grace, we may choose to receive it or to reject it. We receive it by faith in Christ when we repent of our sins (a change of heart

resolving to turn away from sin), confess our faith in Christ as God's Son, and submit to immersion in water (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 8:35-38; 22:16; Rom. 10:8-10; 6:3-4).

As a fellow-traveller from time to eternity, I urge you to turn away from gambling and to do everything in your power to convince others to turn away from it. Such a course is based on our love for God and our fellowman because we recognize that gambling is a curse to the human heart, to the home, to the church, and to the nation. Our lawmakers act contrary to love of God and fellowman by legalizing gambling. Churches debase God's standard of morality by promoting it. All who participate in it act to the detriment of themselves and others.

There are no winners in gambling, whether it be in casinos, at the races, in bingo parlors, or in lotteries and raffles. No such activities meet the tests of true love for God and our fellowman.

- Ron Halbrook

"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

- 1 Timothy 6:6-10

"A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked."

- Proverbs 37:16

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Matthew 6:19-21