

Gambling

John Ross Schroeder

According to a press release from the American Gaming Association, in 2005 "the 455 commercial casinos in 11 states generated \$30.29 billion in gross gaming revenue, ... an increase of nearly 5 percent over 2004 revenue totals."

Gambling spending in Las Vegas exceeded \$6 billion, and in Atlantic City, New Jersey, it surpassed \$5 billion.

Senior citizens with gambling problems spend \$14,300 per year in casinos and \$1,160 per year on lotteries.

Well over half of American adults participate in legal gambling. 20 percent of the nation's youths are taking up the habit according to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission.

Just one pathological gambler costs society about \$11,000. It is estimated the annual cost of gambling to the U.S. economy at between \$40 billion and \$50 billion, nearly half the cost of drug abuse.

Casino Watch, a group opposed to gambling, argues that Missouri lost \$572 million in gambling related business failures, crime, unemployment, social service costs and more. This compared with the \$242 million in gambling tax revenue brought in during 2002. (Gambling: Why It's a Bet Nobody Wins by John Ross Schroeder, The Good News, July/August 2006, pgs 20-21)

BIBLE QUESTIONS

(Will Return Next Week)

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	32
Sunday AM Worship	41
Sunday PM Worship	n/a
Wednesday Bible Study	29
Daily Bible Readers	9
Offering	\$1240
Building Fund	86073

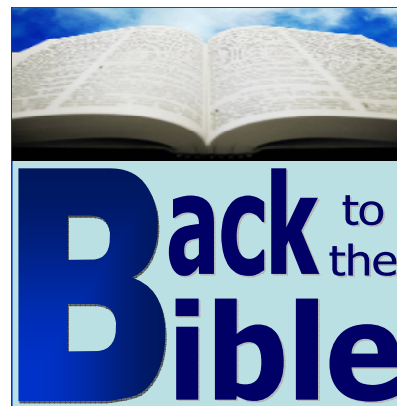
Today's Sermons

Morning: "How Exclusive Are We?"

Evening: "Studies in Hebrews" (Chapter 6)

For Audio Lessons, Past Bulletins, Bible Studies and More

<http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org>



Minister:

Tim Canup

preacher@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:..... 10:00am

AM Worship:....11:00am

PM Worship:.....6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am

"Back to the Bible"

AM 580 WSKS

13th Annual Lectureship

Thought Provoking

Questions From the New

Testament

September 24-26, 2010

We Extend A

Warm & Cordial

Welcome

To All Our Visitors!

A Weekly Publication of the West Jefferson Church of Christ

221 Barnett Street

West Jefferson NC 28694

Phone (336) 846-5615 / Email info@wjchurchofchrist.org

Volume III

December 5, 2010

Number 49

Are All Good Moral People Going To Heaven?

Roger D. Campbell

"She is such a good person." "He is always doing something to help other people." "I have never heard a bad word come out of his mouth, and I have never heard of him ever doing anything out of line." "If my aunt does not make it to heaven, then I do not see how anyone possibly could. She was just a good old soul."

These and similar comments are often made about people that most folks would consider to be "good moral people." No one can please the God of heaven without living by His moral code of conduct, but is everyone that might be called "a good moral person" heaven bound? Some apparently think so, but such a concept is not supported by the teaching of the Bible.

Sin is the greatest problem that mankind must face, because sin separates sinners from the Lord God (Isaiah 59:2). Thus, man's greatest need is to have his sins forgiven. The Bible teaches that "*all unrighteousness is sin*" (1 John 5:17) and "*all have sinned*" (Romans 3:23).

Continued Inside

Those Needing Our Prayers:

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).

Please Pray
For Our Sick



Karissa Stanley
Clayton winters
Savannah Bedenbaugh
Susie Bright
Tosha & Kiana Miller
Willard Ellison
Jim & Amanda Winters
Emily Ward & Family
Tammy Fagan & Family
Jesse Matkins & Family
Harvey Forrest – cancer

Meghan & Heidi Vannoy
Everette Morefield
Steven & Jessica Winters
Katy Long (Moving)
Linda Miller
David Boone
Arveson Wyatt
Chad Douglas
Rita Douglas & Family
Sherry Rutherford
Wendy Vannoy & Boys

Leta Bright
Eugene Kidder
Susie Bright
Andrea Hill
Steven & Jessica Winters
Kathy, Kaylee, Karli
Everett & Sandy Adams
Edgar & Dorothy Wilcox
Michael Wilcox & Family
Danny & Vicky Martin

announcements

Dec 5 – Preach & Eat – Meal following Morning services

Dec 5 – Men's Meeting & Ladies Class – Immediately following evening service

Dec 13 – Singing @ Margate – 6:30 pm.

Four Versions of Mark 16:16

Author Unknown

The **Universalists** say: *"He that believeth NOT and is NOT baptized shall be saved."* ALL are going to be saved even if they do not believe nor acknowledge God.

The **Roman Catholic** says: *"He that believeth NOT and is baptized shall be saved."* Whether a newborn baby or comatose adult at the point of death, the *sacrament* of baptism has validity to take away sins.

The **Protestant** says: *"He that believeth and is NOT baptized shall be saved."* Salvation is by faith (belief) ONLY, without baptism or anything else.

The **Lord** said: *"He that believeth AND is baptized shall be saved."*

Which "version" should we accept?

The Bible further declares that *"the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:23). God grants eternal life through Jesus, not through man's good moral living. Man's morality could never wash away a single sin. Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse one of past sins (Revelation 1:5).

In the Book of Acts, we read numerous accounts of the conversion of lost people. In some cases, we read that lost people inquired about what they must do to be saved. Never do we read that they were told, "Just be a good moral person." What we *do* read is that they were instructed to believe in Jesus, repent of their sins, confess their faith in Jesus as God's Son, and be immersed for the remission of sins (Acts 2:37,38; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 22:10,16).

It is a lie of the devil to declare that being a good moral person "is good enough to get you into heaven." Friends, while God wants His children to be *"zealous of good works"* (Titus 2:14), those good works have no power to remove one's transgressions. At the same time, abstaining from unlawful deeds, while such abstinence is required by the Almighty, could never cause one to be translated out of the power of darkness into the Christ and His kingdom (Colossians 1:13,14).

Jesus is *"the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him"* (Hebrews 5:9). To whom does the Christ offer salvation? Not to all "good moral people," but rather only to those "that obey him." While the world would surely be a lot better off with more good moral people in it, it is also true that those who do not obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus, regardless of their good morality, *"shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power"* (2 Thessalonians 1:8,9).

If the Bible does not teach that a person can get into and remain in a good standing with God by being a good moral person, then why do you suppose so many people accept such an idea? Some probably buy into this false idea simply because they have heard others say it, and they just repeat it. Perhaps others accept it because they consider it to be more convenient and/or less demanding than what the Bible teaches. At any rate, the bottom line is this: according to the Bible, no, not all good moral people are going to heaven.