



Welcome

Welcome to the assembly of the church of Christ that meets at Georgia Avenue, where we strive to follow God's plan for the New Testament church as closely as possible. Thank you for coming. We are encouraged by your presence and invite you to search the scriptures with us.

Sermon Text & Title

AM: "For Obedience
to the Faith"
Romans 1:1-7

PM: "The Christian as
a Witness"
Matt 5:13-16

Schedule of Services

<i>Sun Bible Study</i>	9 AM
<i>Sun AM Worship</i>	10 AM
<i>Sun New Converts</i>	4 PM
<i>Sun PM Worship</i>	5 PM
<i>Wed Bible Class</i>	7 PM

Gene Cooper
Minister
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Melvin Otey
Asst. Minister
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FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK:

Is It A Sin or Not?

"I've never read the verse that says gambling is a sin. And if the bible doesn't say it, then it is not a sin. I can do it!" This has been said concerning gambling and any number of not overtly clear sinful issues. When we consider gambling, we should know gambling is a big part of our society. Most states have the lottery, many schools and organizations run raffles and the number of casinos is climbing. Historically, religious people have condemned such activities. However, as gambling becomes more socially acceptable, some churches are giving up their fight against it. We need to remember that the reasons gambling were sinful 30-40-50 years ago are the same reasons it is still sinful today.

What makes gambling sinful? The word "gambling" does not appear in any version of the Bible of which I am aware of. Therefore, you have those that question the teaching that identifies gambling as sinful, something which will cause you to lose your soul in hell. The sinfulness of gambling is a doctrine of the Bible, though the word does not appear in the text and it is not specifically spelled out.

The Bible reveals there are three ways to legitimately increase wealth or possessions. Work to earn pay (Ephesians 4:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12). Exchange goods, barter (Genesis 47:17; 1 Kings 5:10-11). Receive a gift or inheritance (Matthew 7:11; Ephesians 4:28). Gaining money or material goods by deceit, cheating or stealing is sinful.

Gambling is a form of stealing. In gambling, one person takes from another what he does not want to give. It does not matter that the other person entered into the game willfully. Sword fighting (Dueling) is entered by mutual consent, but when one person is killed, it is still murder. Gambling is also driven by covetousness, which is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). If it were not so, it would not be so popular. Covetousness is the appeal of lotteries and raffles. States, schools and organizations would not rake in large amounts of money by simply asking for donations. So, they appeal to man's covetousness - and get a good response!

Are Investing and Life "Gambling"? When confronted with principles which clearly condemn gambling, some people reply, "The stock market is a gamble. Therefore, it has to be sinful too." This is not so. In the stock market, and many other business investments, people provide capital to a company, which in turn, uses that capital to create profits. When profits increase, all investors receive the benefits. In other words, one person does not steal from another.

Some want to explain away the sinfulness of gambling by saying life is a gamble. There are risks in life, but that does not make it equivalent to gambling. God gave us life. He did not give us craps, 21 or the roulette wheel. These arguments are designed to muddy the issue. The Bible condemns gambling. Any excuse to get around this simply will not work. Now you honestly answer the question in light of the above explanation: **Is It A Sin or Not?**

Bro. Gene Cooper

If God be for us, who could be against us...

“RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD”

TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE—THE ESV

#24 The English Standard Version (ESV), completed in 2001, builds on several earlier translations, including William Tyndale’s New Testament of 1534, the KJV of 1611, and the 1971 edition of the Revised Standard Version. In fact, only about 5-10% of the RSV text was changed. The ESV was produced by a team of more than 100 people and is an “essentially literal” translation that seeks to be “as literal as possible” while maintaining clarity of expression and literary excellence. As such, its emphasis is on “word-for-word” correspondence, at the same time taking into account differences of grammar, syntax, and idiom between current literary English and the original languages.

Bro. Melvin Otey

Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations!!! to Antoine and Ivy Johnson on their nuptials yesterday. **Single Service Weekend, 3/27-3/29.** If you would like help during this weekend or would like to help, please contact Sis. L. Mosby by Wed, March 19. **Adopt-a-Block Outreach, Sat, 3/29.** We are scheduled to help out the residents on the 700 block of Princeton Place. All members are encouraged to participate (wear your Georgia Avenue t-shirts)! Please indicate your availability (time) to Sis. L. Mosby. The signup sheet is in the back near the water cooler. **Youth Talent Show, Sun, 3/30.** Please see Bro. or Sis. Williams to participate.

PRAYER REQUESTS

WORSHIP LINE-UP

AM

Usher	C. Merriweather
Song Leader	K. Wall
Announcements	G. Cooper
Invocation	I. Davis
Scrip Reading	I. Davis
Message	M. Otey
Lord’s Table	O. Eaton
Assist	M. Davis
	D. Rogers
Giving	O. Eaton
Benediction	S. Pierre

PM

Usher	C. Merriweather
Song Leader	S. Pierre
Announcements	M. Otey
Invocation	M. Williams
Scrip Reading	M. Williams
Message	G. Cooper
Lord’s Table	K. Wall
Assist	I. Thompson
	C. Bingham
Giving	K. Wall
Benediction	N. Burkett

God’s Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel. Rom 10:14, 17
Believe in Jesus. John 8:24; Heb. 11:6
Repent of Sin. Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30
Confess Christ. Rom. 10:9-10
Be Baptized. Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38
The Lord adds you to the church.
 Acts 2:47
Live Faithful Unto Death. Rev. 2:10

STATISTICS

March 16, 2008

Sunday Class: 35 AM Worship: 56 PM Worship: NC Wed Class: 32

Clean Up This Month:

L. Mosby & T. Porter

Communion:

J. Gibson & M. Moore