

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

March 2, 2008

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

That question was first recorded as Cain's answer to God when God inquired as to the whereabouts of Abel, Cain's brother. **Genesis 4: 9** "And the LORD said to Cain, Where [is] Abel your brother? And he said, I know not: [Am] I my brother's keeper?" The true answer to that question **for all that desire to be on good terms with God is a resounding, "YES!"**

Ephesians 4: 28 "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with [his] hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needs." A godly person **is a giver TO the disadvantaged, not a taker FROM the disadvantaged.** The needy may look to the godly for **assistance driven by love for God**, not for **exploitation driven by selfish greed.**

On the subject of **giving** the inspired apostle Paul told the Corinthians the following: **2Corinthians 9:6** "But this [I say], He which sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposes in his heart, [so let him give]; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God [is] able to make all grace abound toward you; that you, always having all sufficiency in all [things], may abound to every good work: 9 (As it is written, He has dispersed abroad; he has given to the poor: his righteousness remains for ever. 10 Now he that ministers seed to the sower both minister bread for [your] food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness:) 11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causes through us thanksgiving to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings to God; 13 While by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection to the gospel of Christ, and for [your] liberal distribution to them, and to all [men]; 14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. 15 Thanks [be] to God for his unspeakable gift."

The society that we currently are living in is in many respects **not behaving well** and **we need to be very sure that none of the not right things about the society in which we are immersed rub off on us.** One of those not right things is reflected in **the defenses of government regulated wagering.** The defenders of wagering acknowledge with absolutely no visible embarrassment or self-consciousness at all that one of the most appealing aspects of the schemes being promoted is that they are ways for the advantaged to **let the disadvantaged pay the bills for the advantaged.** They are ways to allow **the greedy to mooch on the meager funds of the needy** and **that appeals to the greedy.** It does not appeal to the godly but **it does appeal to the greedy.**

People of means allow the poorest segment of society to pay for the band trips and athletic equipment of the children of the people of means. Most of those people of means are **far too informed and wise thinking, to ever wager a cent on anything themselves.** But they are happy for the government to set up the wagering games by which **the poorest of the poor can be made to pay the bills for the children of those who are completely capable of paying the bills themselves if they chose to.**

When proceeds from government controlled bingo games are used to pay for band trips or athletic equipment it is **the funds of the disadvantaged that are being used.** The funds come from a horde of disadvantaged people who are **induced to give their money to get nothing in return.** **There is not a cent that comes from bingo that has not been lost by someone in a game of bingo.** **The same is true of the proceeds from lotteries, horse races or casinos.** Wagering does not make money. Manufacturing makes money. **Wagering just moves money around from the many hands of the disadvantaged to the few hands of the advantaged.** What society needs to do is **fix the problem of wagering not exploit and encourage it, and most certainly not become addicted to using the proceeds of wagering as a means of conning the poor into paying the bills for the rich.** **Without the continual participation of the disadvantaged government controlled wagering cannot exist.** **The whole system depends for its existence on the exploitation of the disadvantaged.** **The advantaged know better than to throw their money away.** For the most part they do not wager.

Psalms 10: 2 "The wicked in [his] pride does persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined. 3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, and blesses the covetous, [whom] the LORD abhors."

Psalms 10: 9 "He lies in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lies in wait to catch the poor: he does catch the poor, when he draws him into his net."

Who is it that Jesus said **we are neighbors to?** **Luke 10:27-37** **No one that profits by encouraging others to wager is a neighbor to those who suffer from wagering.** **People suffer because of money lost** that will not buy food or clothes or shelter. **It is gone! Those people will never have that money again.** It is gone and **they have absolutely nothing to show for it but empty pockets and very often no food and no place to live and no hope of ever doing better.**

Wagering is an **economic, social, moral and spiritual problem that needs to be solved not encouraged or exploited.** Responsible governments should be studying the wagering problem in order to discover what glitches in thinking allow people to throw their money away on wagering and **helping those people overcome their problems not devising new schemes to get more people entangled.** Every day people do dishonest acts in order to obtain funds to wager. They misappropriate funds in order to wager. Many go to jail because of their lust for wagering. Many many destroy their careers by wagering. Why do star athletes at the top of their game throw their careers away because of wagering? **They do it because they are addicted to wagering.** They love the thrill. They love the excitement. They love the hope of gain. **They are not wise. They need to be helped as in the past people were helped.** **Once upon a time in this country as children were taught to read they were also taught wisdom, from the Bible, from Poor Richard's Almanac and from the McGuffey's Readers.** **That was right and proper because we are our brother's keepers.** **Profiting by exploiting the sins of others is certainly not being a neighbor to those sinners who are being exploited.**

Remember to Pray For

Carl and Anne Harper and their new baby,
Alexa Ann born last Sunday
Leonard Hamilton asked for prayers
Cheryl Spear undergoing cancer treatments
Gammon Sterns newborn at UK hospital with
breathing problems
Lanny Hiller had open heart surgery 2/21
Roselyn Agyare
Ron Tirey
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox
Divya Srinivasan
Bill Robinson Jr.
Donnie & Tracy Oliver & their baby
Helen Stephens
Brayden Grushon
The mother of Lori Dailey
Chris Handshoe
Chris and Jen Dooley
Jeffrey Howerton
Ruel Baker
Addison Pervine
Carl Stripplehoff
Sybil Jamison
Blanch Thompson
Karen Handshoe
Tom Kemp
Freda Blakey
James Stauffer

There is no **right way** to do wrong

There is no **right reason** to do wrong

In God's game only those who play by
God's rules can win.

2 Timothy 2: 5 "And if a man also strive
for masteries, **[yet] is he not crowned,**
except he strive lawfully."

Thank You Father for all the blessings
You are giving me today... and one more
thing Father, please help me use these
blessings better today and tomorrow than I
did the ones You gave me yesterday and
the days before... I didn't do too well with
those.

There are places where people do not read
the Bible because they are
ignorant of its value.

There are places where people do not read
the Bible because they have
ungodly laws.

There are places where people do not read
the Bible because they have
ungodly minds.

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God [is]
quick, and powerful, and sharper than any
two-edged sword, piercing even to the
dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of
the joints and marrow, and [is] a discernor
of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

**WE NEED TO KNOW THE WORD
OF GOD.**

Thoughts

Integrity is an interesting word. **Job retained his integrity.** That was a good thing. Job had integrity and he kept it. We know that is true because according to the inspired Book of Job **God said that about Job.**

Job 2: 3 "And the LORD said to Satan, Have you considered my servant Job, that [there is] none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that fears God, and eschews evil? and **still he holds fast his integrity,** although you moved me against him, to destroy him without cause." It makes me wonder if God can truthfully say that about me? Do I retain my integrity, whatever that is? **I wonder what it means to retain one's integrity?** I suspect from the way the word is used in the Book of Job that it would be well for me to retain my integrity, if I can determine what that means. Solomon said that the "integrity" of the upright is what guides them. That indicates that **it is not possible to be upright without having integrity.**

Proverbs 11: 3 "The **integrity of the upright shall guide them:** but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."

The original word (*tummah* #08538) that is used appears five times in the text of the Old Testament and four of those times it refers to Job. We are probably safe if we assume that Job's integrity is **what guided Job,** and to also assume that **we need the same guidance.**

Job 27: 4 "My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit. 5 God forbid that I should justify you: **till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me.** 6 My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach [me] so long as I live."

But, what was that thing called integrity, that according to God Job possessed and that according to Job, Job held so dear? Whatever "integrity" was it seems, judging from the way it is used, to have had **something to do with honestly desiring to see right done and with always doing and saying what you honestly believe to be right.**

The ancient translators of the Greek Old Testament used the Greek word "akakou" (#172) to translate the Hebrew word "tummah".

BDB/Thayers # 172 akakos {ak'-ak-os}
from 1 (as a negative particle) and 2556; TDNT -
3:482,391; adj

AV - simple 1, harmless 1; 2

1) without guile or fraud, harmless, free from guilt

2) fearing no evil from others, distrusting no one

That Greek word is used twice in the New Testament. Once in **Romans 16:18** where it refers to people whose innocence of evil makes them likely victims of the duplicity of predators that disguise with attractive words their evil actions and intentions. The other time it appears in the New Testament is in **Hebrews 7:26**, where it is translated "harmless" and is one of the words that **describes the character of Jesus Christ.**

So, what is integrity, this thing that the Book of Job indicates that Job and God so valued? Integrity is one of the things that Jesus and Job both had. What was it? Both Jesus and Job had one only driving purpose while in flesh on earth. While in flesh on earth their driving purpose was to do the will of God. Integrity is straightforward, open and honest.

Integrity does not appear to be in favor of something in one audience and appear to be against it in another audience. Integrity does and says right because it is right, not because it is popular. We must have, and keep integrity or we will not please God.

Notes

There will be a **men's business meeting**
Next Sunday, March 9, 2008 at 3:00PM

**REMEMBER OUR GOSPEL MEETING
WITH GARY HENRY PREACHING
APRIL 6-11**

The difference between here and there in the city of God is well illustrated by the fact that there is no night there.

Revelation 22: 5 "And **there shall be no night there;** and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God gives them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

"**No night**" is only a good thing when you no longer need to sleep

God knows what He knows and what He knows is everything there is to know.

Luke 12: 6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and **not one of them is forgotten before God?** 7 But **even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.** Fear not therefore: you are of more value than many sparrows."

When Jesus and His inspired apostles of the first century preached **the truth of God's will** and **people refused to accept what they preached,** where was the fault? There was a fault somewhere. **Was the fault in the preacher, the message or the hearer?**

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

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**COME STUDY THE BIBLE
AND WORSHIP WITH US**

**HOW HAVE I SERVED BETTER
TODAY THAN YESTURDAY?**