

I. GAMBLING: PUTTING RESOURCES AT RISK OF LOSS FOR THE PURPOSE OF GAIN WITH NO SIGNIFICANT KNOWLEDGE OF OR CONTROL OVER THE OUTCOME

II. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

- A. **ESSENTIALLY IMMORAL** (Protestant, Orthodox; 8th commandment; *LC, 140-142; Testimony*, c.5, para.4)
- B. **INCIDENTALLY IMMORAL** (Roman Catholic, Richard Baxter; i.e., abuse vs. use)
- C. **CONSEQUENTIALLY IMPRUDENT** (most)

III. THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (creation ordinances; Mt.19:4f; Ex.20:1f; Gen.2,3; see Mt.5:17f; Rom.13:8f; Jms.2:8f; all ethical questions; see *LC*)

IV. ASPECTS OF IDOLATRY

- A. **NO OTHER GODS: MOTHER NATURE & LADY LUCK** (#1; Ex.20:3,11; see Dt.29:29)
- B. **NOT MAKE IDOLS: GREED** (#2; Ex.20:4,5; Col.3:5; Plutus vs. Providence, Mt.6:24f,33)
- C. **NOT VAIN NAME: PUT GOD TO THE TEST** (#3; Ex.20:7; see Prov.16:33; Mt.4:6f w/Ps.91:11,12)

V. ASPECTS OF IMMORALITY

- A. **YOU SHALL WORK** (#4; Ex.20:9)
 - 1. wages vs. wagers (Gen.8:22; Gal.6:7; 2C.9:6; 2Th.3:6f; Eph.4:28 /Ps.112:3; Prv.8:18; 13:11; 15:6, etc.)
 - 2. interest & dividends (Mt.25:27; Lk.19:11f; 20:9f)
 - 3. inheritance (2Cor.12:14; Ps.17:14; Prov.19:14; Lk.15:12)
 - 4. gifts (Phil.4:10f; Gen.25:6; Mt.2:11)
- B. **YOU SHALL NOT STEAL** (#8; Ex.20:15; Mt.19:18)
 - 1. unjust exchange (something for nothing; Dt.25:13,15; Prv.16:11; Mic.6:8-12; Jms.5:4; essentially immoral)
 - 2. consent not justify (see Prov.1:10; consent to do evil is evil; e.g., gamble-steal // duel-murder)
 - 3. misappropriation (nothing for something; see Lk.16:1f; incidentally/consequentially immoral)
 - a. improvident: if you gamble with your wages (see 1Tm.5:8; food, clothing, shelter)
 - b. imprudent: if you gamble with your savings (see Gal.6:7f; seed corn)
 - c. unmerciful: if you gamble with your alms (see Eph.4:28; meet pressing needs)
- C. **YOU SHALL NOT COVET** (#10; Ex.20:17; Rm.7:7f; 13:9 /Lk.3:14; 2C.12:10; Phil.4:11; 1Tm.6:6f,8; Hb.13:5)

VI. ASPECTS OF FOOLISHNESS

- A. **TESTIMONY OF MATHEMATICS** (Dt.29:29 w/30:1f; see *Chance and The Sovereignty of God* by Vern Poythress)
 - 1. predictable laws (Newtonian physics) *versus* unpredictable events (quantum mechanics)
 - 2. probabilistic independence *versus* gambler's fallacy
- B. **TESTIMONY OF MANY SUFFERING GREAT LOSS** (note: elderly first time gamblers)
- C. **TESTIMONY OF EXTRAORDINARY PROFITS** (casinos; governments; *LC, 142*: "receiving... stolen")
- D. **TESTIMONY OF ENSLAVING POWER** (see *The Gambler* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky)

VII. LOOK & SEE! (Acts 17:11 (see *LC, 140-142*) then Ps.139:23; Lam.3:40; Rom.2:15; 1Th.5:21; Ps.119:9, etc.; 2Tm.3:14f)

- A. **THE NATURE OF YOUR PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES** (IV, V above; i.e., #1-9)
- B. **THE MOTIVE OF YOUR PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES** (V, C above; i.e., #10)
- C. **THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES** (VI above)
- D. **SUMMARY: CONTENTMENT VS. GREED** (Lk.12:15; Rom.1:29; Eph.5:3; Col.3:5; 2Pt.2:3,14; see Mk.4:19; 1Jn.2:16; gamble/content)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)