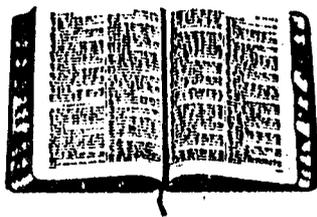


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."* (2 Timothy 3:16)

Volume 36

NOVEMBER, 1999

Number 11

## **THE "KINGDOM" OF "JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES" IS NEARLY 1900 YEARS TOO LATE!**

So-called "Jehovah's Witnesses" teach that the kingdom of God was set up in 1914. For proof of this read the following statements from their publications.

"Likewise, the kingdom of God was born and set in action in A. D. 1914..." (*The Truth Shall Make You Free*, page 299).

"In A. D. 1914... Christ Jesus, whose right it is to be God's King in the true and everlasting Theocracy of heaven came and God gave the throne of the Theocratic Government to him." (*ibid.*, page 300).

"Bear in mind that the fall of A. D. 1914, when Christ Jesus received the Kingdom..." (*ibid.*, page 301).

"The undefeatable purpose of Jehovah God to establish a righteous kingdom in these last days was fulfilled A. D. 1914." (*Let God Be True*, page 143).

"His kingdom...was born in 1914." (*ibid.*, page 202).

"The remnants of spiritual Israelites, as Jehovah's Witnesses, have proclaimed world-wide the establishment of God's kingdom in 1914." (*ibid.*, page 218).

Let us examine God's Word and see if it teaches that the kingdom of God was born and set up (or established) in 1914 like the

"Jehovah's Witnesses" teach.

While on earth both John the Baptist and Jesus Christ preached "the gospel of the kingdom". (Cf. Mt. 4:23). They said: "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mt. 3:2; 4:17). *That was in the first century nearly 1900 years ago!* Note the fact that "the kingdom" was "at hand"! It was near! In Mark 9:1 Jesus said: "...That there be some of them which stand here, which shall not taste of death, *till* they have seen the kingdom of God come with power." NOTE: *That was in the first century nearly 1900 years ago!* OBSERVATION: If "the kingdom of God" did not come (was not set up or established) until 1914, there were people still living on earth (had not tasted death) in 1914 who were at least nearly 1900 years old and some may have been older than that. NOTE: *That would make Methuselah (who lived 969 years - Cf. Gen. 5:27) look like a schoolboy!* Surely no "Witness" would make such a claim!

We learn from Rev. 1:9 that John was "a brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom..." NOTE: *The kingdom*

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# THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama.

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Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950.

## Editorial...

### GAMBLING IS SINFUL!

(No. 2)

In our previous study on "*Gambling Is Sinful*" we showed the following facts about gambling.

I. **It is big business.** In 1993 Americans spent *330 billion dollars* in all forms of gambling.

II. **Gambling is** "*the risking of money, of any valuables, by mutual agreement on the results of chance; betting one games, events, numbers, endurance trials, or any other element of chance.*" Such things as **bingo, poker, betting, craps, punchboards, slot machines, etc., matching for cokes, coin tossing schemes, etc., lotteries, raffles, etc.** are ways to gamble.

III. **It produces evil fruit.**

IV. **It violates the law (or principle) of labor.**

Let us continue our study of the topic, "**Gambling is Sinful.**"

V. **It violates God's law of providing things honestly.** In Rom. 12:17 Paul said: "**...Provide things honest in the sight of all men.**" (Also read Titus 3:14; Heb. 13:18; 2 Cor. 8:21; & 1 Thess. 4:11-12). NOTE: There are four legitimate means of

transferring money. They are: (1) *Law of labor* (physical or mental) where a person actually earns money by time and energy expended. (2) *Law of exchange* in which a commodity is exchanged for its value in money. (3) *Law of investment*, and. (4) *Law of love* in which something is given without desire or expectation of anything in return. Gifts may be conditional or unconditional. Inheritance would come under this one.

VI. **It violates God's law of love.** Jesus said, "**And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.**" (Luke 6:31). Also read Rom. 13:8-10.

VII. **It destroys one's influence for good, for truth and for righteousness.** Most Bible believing people teach against gambling and many non-religious people consider it a vice. Christians are to be *the salt of the earth and the light of the world.* (Cf. Mt. 5:13-16). We are to be *examples* of true believers. (Cf. 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7-8). Also read Col. 4:5; Rom. 14:16 & 2 Cor. 6:3. Cf. 2 Sam. 12:14.

VIII. **Gambling is a stumbling block to others.** We should *not* be stumbling blocks to others, but should edify them. (See Rom. 14:19-23; 1 Cor. 8:12-13; Mt. 18:6-7; 1 Cor. 10:32 & 2 Tim. 2:21).

IX. **Gambling is doubtful,** (the least we can say about it). If you gamble, doubting that it is right, you have sinned according to Rom. 14:14, 23, even if it is *not* sinful within and of itself.

X. **It cannot be done in the name of Jesus** (cf. Col. 3:17), **by faith** (cf. Heb. 11:6; 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17), or **to the glory of God** (cf. 1 Cor. 10:31).

Although the word "**gambling**"  
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is *not* found in the Scriptures, a study of the preceding *Scriptural* principles certainly indicate that *gambling* (including the *lottery*) is *sinful!*

NOTE: The words *bootlegging*, *larceny*, *lesbianism*, *abortion*, *rape* and *pornography* are *not* found in the Scriptures, but a study of *Scriptural* principles will certainly indicate that *such things are sinful!* Yes, without a doubt, *gambling is sinful!*

### **THE LOTTERY IS SINFUL!**

Some people try to justify legalized gambling (including the *lottery*) on the basis that the money gained from it can be used for the educational benefit of our children. The same argument can be made (and has been made by many) in an effort to try to justify legalizing liquor, *drugs*, *prostitution*, etc.

We all agree that our children need to be educated. However, we should consider the question, "*Should we do evil that good may come?*" In Rom. 3:8 there were some who slanderously reported and affirmed that Paul (& others) said: "**Let us do evil, that good may come.**" Of course Paul did *not say such*, but referring to the slanderers he *did say*, "**Whose damnation is just.**" NOTE: We should *never do evil that good may come!* If we legalize gambling to get money for educational purposes, here are some of the things that our children will be taught. [EDITOR'S NOTE: Credit for the following major points should be given to *Steve Klein* who preaches for the Oakland Church near Athens, Alabama.]

**1. Our children will be taught that gambling is a better solution to a financial problem than work and sacrifice.** God's word teaches that

financial problems can be solved by the work and charity of individuals. The Christian is taught to "**labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.**" (Eph. 4:28). The Christian is taught to *pay taxes* ("Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's"-Mt. 22:21) to support the legitimate functions of government. (Cf. Rom. 13:1-7).

**2. Our children will be taught that the end justifies the means!** We will be telling them by our example that *it is right to do evil that good may come!* NOTE: Practicing this principle can bring disastrous results in many areas. We should teach our children by example to "**Abhor that which is evil**" and "**cleave to that which is good.**" (Rom. 12:9).

**3. Our children will be taught that a moral principle can always be sacrificed for a financial interest!** "I read once of a *financial interest* meeting a *moral principle* on a narrow bridge. Since they could not pass side by side the *moral principle* happily laid itself down and was immediately run over and squashed flat by the *financial interest.*" (Steve Klein). Once our children learn that we can allow a *financial interest* to crush a *moral principle*, they will never let morality stand in the way of getting money or anything else they want.

**4. Our children will learn that the older generation - their parents and those in charge of running the country - cannot be trusted to solve social and moral problems, only to create them.** Let us *never* go along with legalizing things that are sinful! Yes, *gambling is sinful!* (CRS)

(Continued from page 1)

**THE "KINGDOM" OF "JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES" IS NEARLY 1900 YEARS TOO LATE!**

was in existence when John wrote Rev. 1:9 because *John was in it!*

The inspired Hebrew writer (12:28-29) said: **"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire."** NOTE: The Hebrew writer and other saints *had received an immovable kingdom. Therefore the kingdom was in existence at that time.*

The saints in Thessalonica had been called **"unto his (God's -CRS) kingdom and glory."** (Cf. 1 Thess. 2:12).

In his letter to the saints at Colosse Paul said: **"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son..."** (1:13). NOTE: They were *in the kingdom!* The kingdom was in existence! That was in the first century

nearly 1900 years ago! In view of the *Scriptural* evidence that the kingdom of God was established (set up) in the first century, and "the kingdom of Jehovah's Witnesses" *not* set up (established) *until 1914*, we must conclude that *"the kingdom of Jehovah' Witnesses" is nearly 1900 years too late to be the kingdom of God* Their "kingdom" is a "kingdom" of men. It came into existence by human desire. It was designed by human reasoning and human wisdom. It was set up (established) by men. It is governed and controlled by men. Its creed is the product of men, their likes, dislikes, preferences, doctrines and their wisdom.

God did not purpose, design nor establish the "kingdom of Jehovah's Witnesses." It is destined to be rooted up! Cf. Mt. 15:13). *If you are in it, get out before it's too late!* (CRS)

**GOSPEL MEETINGS**

Sugar Creek, Hayden, AL Dec. 3-5, 1999 - (Friday & Saturday 7:30 PM).  
Beulah, Athens, AL Dec. 10-12, 1999 -(Fri. & Sat. 7:00 PM) Sun. 9:30 & 10:30 AM- Singing 3:00PM)

**SENTENCE SERMONS**

After every hard bump or knock you should become more solid for the next one.

\* \* \* \* \*

Many claim to accept the Christ of the cross, but reject the cross of the Christ.

\* \* \* \* \*

Study the Scriptures to be wise, believe them to be safe, practice them to be holy.

\* \* \* \* \*

Secret sins won't stay secret.

\* \* \* \* \*

Death is not a period, but a comma in the story of life.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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