

Godly Youth

Young in Age, Strong in Heart

A Godly Student

It is back to school time. Whether you go to a public or private school or are home schooled and meet with other students from time to time, you must make sure that you live properly before others.

Some of your classmates may not care about serving God at all. They may be more interested in things that you know displease God. Though you have to be around such people, you do not have to be like them.

1 Corinthians 15:33 warns us that friends who do not serve God could teach us to do ungodly things. We can pick up filthy words from people who use foul language. These words do not please or glorify God, Colossians 3:8.

If our close friends get angry quickly, we can develop bad tempers, Proverbs 22:24-25. A person who loses his temper does not glorify God, James 1:19-20.

Some people like to do many things that destroy themselves and others. They may drink alcohol, use drugs, or look at magazines and movies that they should not see. They will think you are strange if you do not do it either:

For you spent enough time in the past doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in sensuality, sinful desires, drunkenness, wild celebrations, drinking parties, and detestable idolatry. They insult you now because they are surprised that you are no longer joining them in the same excesses of wild living. 1 Peter 4:3-4 (ISV)

Even if people do insult you, you do not have to please them. They will have to answer to God for the way they lived if they do not repent. You know you will be judged by God; therefore, you should not follow their evil ways.

When I was in school, choosing to do the right thing meant that I was not always popular with my friends. Sometimes when they wanted to do something wrong and I told them I would not, others took courage and did not do the wrong thing. Sometimes I had to let them go without me because they would not do right and I would not do wrong.

Make friends of people who want to please God and encourage one another to do right

Pray for: Wisdom

James 1:5 encourages his readers to pray to God for wisdom:

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Godly wisdom is one of the most important things that we can have. Godly wisdom helps us make good decisions and avoid things that we should not do.

We get knowledge by studying God's

word. Wisdom is the ability to use what we have learned from God's word. Study for knowledge; pray and learn from godly people to receive wisdom.

Pay attention to what your teachers, the preacher, and your parents try to teach you from God's word. Use what you have learned to make good decisions and avoid things that displease God and will do you harm. Pray for wisdom and trust God's promise to give it to you.

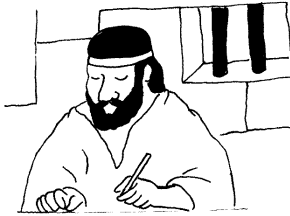
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*" [They]
searched the
Scriptures daily
to find out
whether these
things were so."*

Acts 17:11



**Lessons from
2 Corinthians**

- A person can please God even if he lives in a wicked place
- A person can change from a sinful life to a godly life
- A Christian, he must continue to grow in the faith
- God loves a cheerful giver
- Sometimes you need to tell someone you love to change some bad things but you must do it in love

2 Corinthians

Paul wrote this book as a letter, or epistle, to the church in Corinth.

As mentioned in last month's article on First Corinthians, Corinth was a very wicked city. The Christians had to be faithful in a place where many people worshipped idols and did bad other bad things.

The church had many problems as members tried to learn to do good after spending much of their lives living sinfully like other people in the city.

Paul sent the first

letter, 1 Corinthians, to correct problems in the church and answer some of their questions. In the second letter, Paul told them he was happy about some of the changes they made and hoped they would continue to grow in the faith.

Some people were saying bad things about Paul. It seems that some people said that he was not as good an apostle as Peter and the original apostles. Paul told them to think about how he lived and what he taught and they would know that he

was just like the other apostles.

Paul reminded the church in Corinth to keep saving the money that they were going to send with Paul to help the Christians in Jerusalem who needed food since it had not rained for a long time. He told them to give much because God loves a cheerful giver.

Paul had to tell the church to change some things in order to help them please God. He did this because he loved them and wanted them to be saved.

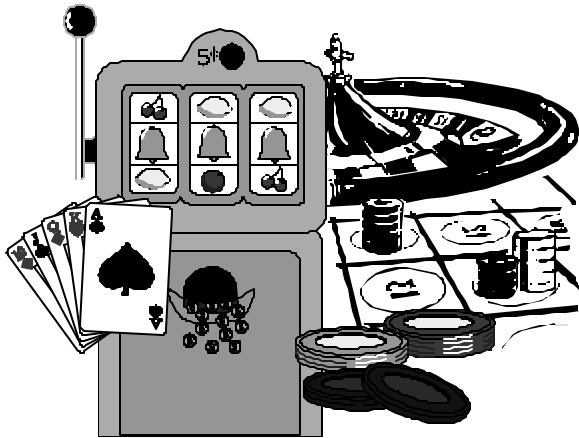
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**Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23**

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| LOVE | JOY |
| PEACE | LONGSUFFERING |
| KINDNESS | GOODNESS |
| FAITHFULNESS | GENTLENESS |
| SELF-CONTROL | FRUIT |
| SPIRIT | |

Gambling

By Rhodes Davis



Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary Definition of Gambling:

intransitive verb

1 a : to play a game for money or property

b : to bet on an uncertain outcome

2 : to stake something on a contingency : take a chance

transitive verb

1 : to risk by gambling : WAGER (something (as a sum of money) risked on an uncertain event)

2 : VENTURE , HAZARD

"Isn't life risky—a gamble?"

Gambling involves artificial risks in order to gain significant winnings. Life involves normal risks with rewards and consequences that are not left to the whim of a roulette wheel or turn of the card.

"There is no difference between putting money in the stock market or insurance and a casino bet."

Some can use the stock market in a way that might be considered gambling. Responsible investors are putting money in a business in order to help it succeed. The business produces value for society and the investor hopes to benefit as the business succeeds. The Bible gives approved examples of investing money to receive profit: Matthew 25:25-27

Casino bets only help the casino owners; nothing of value proceeds from money invested. Insurance involves shared risks by individuals who pool their money with a company that invests the money and pays to help the shareholder in a time of need. Responsible stock market investing does not involve a person playing against "the house." The hope is that all will profit from

What spiritual principles are involved with gambling?

Stewardship - God's people should use their money in ways that please God. The big loser will continue to bet to win back what he has lost wasting more money in the process. Some will gamble away money to be used for family needs, 1 Timothy 5:8.

Covetousness - Gambling is founded on an impure desire for someone else's possessions. It does not matter that one voluntarily wagers money; the issue is not theft but covetousness Romans 13:9; Ephesians 5:5

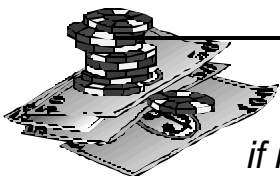
Envy - The losing gambler will often feel envy when someone takes "his" jackpot. Galatians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:1

Greed - A gambler is rarely content with his winnings. He will continue to bet in order to increase his winnings. It begins with and feeds on the love of money; 1 Timothy 6:9-10

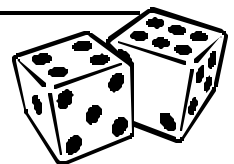
Esteeming others - Instead of hoping to take advantage of another person, we should do things that build them up. Gambling fosters an attitude in which we hope bad things befall someone so we can gain. We do not love our neighbor as ourselves when gambling nor do we do unto others as we would like them to do to us, Matthew 22:39; 7:12

Example - Some gambling environments are filled with lewdness, drunkenness, and professional criminals. The focus of the gambling casino is greed and lust.

Habit - Organizations such as Gambler's Anonymous were formed to help those addicted to gambling. We should not do anything that will enslave us; 1 Corinthians 6:12.



*The amount of money wagered does not matter.
Whether it is ten cents, a dollar, or a hundred dollars—
if it is wrong for one hundred dollars, it is wrong for a dollar.*



Memory Verse: John 14:2

"In My Father's house are many mansions;
if it were not so, I would have told you."

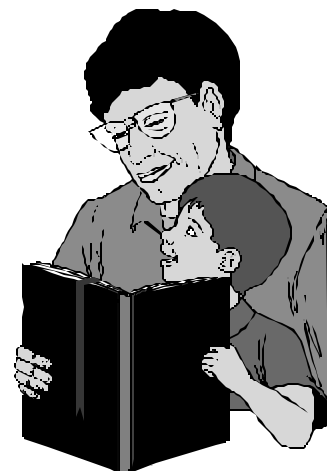
Jesus made a great promise to His apostles. Jesus was about to be crucified. They would be sad to see Jesus die. They would also be sad because Peter would soon say that he did not know Jesus and the rest of the apostles would run away when Jesus was arrested.

Even though Jesus knew that this would happen, He told his apostles not to worry. He knew that He would rise from the dead and the apostles would do great work in the church.

Their greatest comfort was that Jesus was preparing

a home in heaven for them. God would forgive them for running away from Jesus.

Those who obey God can be happy even in sad times because they know that they have a home in heaven where there will be no sadness, crying, or death.



I hope you enjoyed this issue of *Godly Youth*. If you have ideas for articles or questions you want to ask, you can email me at rhodesdavis@joimail.com or write to the address below.
Past issues on <http://www.justchristians.info>

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A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER
JUST FOR YOU!
