

## REMINDER

Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 12. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour Saturday night before going to bed.

**James 5:16** "16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

## THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

### Let us pray for...

- Rick Beauchamp** – on extended absence from family and us because of employment
- Jerry Douglas** – fighting bone and lymph cancer (Danny Douglas's twin brother)
- Alice Haddon** – fighting cancer (Sheri's friend)
- Terry Hightower** – in the loss of his wife, Vicki
- Judy Reid** – sister in NJ, planning to move here
- Brian Ritter** – fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)
- Jeff Simmons** – "our boy" in the US Navy (Saratoga Springs, New York)
- Don Smith** – faithful brother in Ohio prison, ordered to cease teaching fellow inmates
- Stephanie Tigner** – who has been restored to Christ (Kourtney's sister)
- Joshua Aidoo** – Gospel preacher in Ghana we support
- Samuel Bagsangi** – Gospel preacher in Philippines we support
- Danny Douglas** – Gospel preacher in US we support

### Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	6
Sunday AM Worship	6
Sunday PM Worship	8
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	8
Contribution	\$425.00
Contribution average (2017)	\$1,324.01

### Internet and YouTube Sermon broadcasts...

- Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast, beginning at approximately 10:45–10:50 a.m. and 1:12–1:15 p.m., via Internet through our Website, [www.northpointcoc.com](http://www.northpointcoc.com).
- Our **YouTube** channel at *Northpoint Church of Christ* has a growing collection of Northpoint sermons available for viewing.

Preacher, Editor, *The Lighthouse*

Philip Smith



# The Northpoint Lighthouse

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## Everything in Life is Gambling, or is It?

I suppose everyone who has preached against gambling has heard the response that "everything in life is a gamble," but is it really? This has been repeated so many times that it has become a mantra for the gambling crowd who seek to justify their actions.

Before discussing whether everything in life is a gamble let us consider three major problems with gambling. The first is that the motivation to gamble is the desire to gain something from others for nothing. That is simply covetousness and the Bible teaches that covetousness is sinful (Col. 3:5-6; Eph. 5:3). The second is that the Bible authorizes us to gain funds in four ways; (1) Work (Gen. 3:19; 2 Thes. 3:10). (2) Buying and selling (Acts 16:14; Acts 4:32-35; Matt. 13:44-45; Jam. 4:13). (3) Gift or inheritance (Matt. 2:11; Eph. 4:28; Deut 21:17). 4. Interest (Matt. 26:27). Gambling also exemplifies a lack of love toward others because in gambling we desire to take that which belongs to others without giving anything in return (Deut. 20:17; Lk 12:15).

Let us consider the proposition that everything in life is a gamble. This stems from the assumption that risk is equivalent to gambling and that every single thing in life is a risk. There are some things that are certain in life such as aging. When our life ends then aging ends. Another thing that is sure is death (Heb. 9:27) this is not a risk we take, for it is certain as well. I'm sure you can think of other certainties in life.

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**Northpoint  
Church of Christ**  
Greenway Plaza, 4224 N. I-35  
Denton, Texas 76207  
940.220.9931  
[northpointcoc@hotmail.com](mailto:northpointcoc@hotmail.com)  
[www.northpointcoc.com](http://www.northpointcoc.com)  
[www.thescripturecache.com](http://www.thescripturecache.com)

**Sunday**  
Bible Class 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:30 AM  
Worship 1:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

What constitutes gambling? First there must be a “pot” into which the players put something of value. This is the bet or the wager. Second, there must be an event in which the outcome is uncertain. Third, there must be one or more winners and one or more losers. Business is not gambling because if the business fails then everyone loses but no one wins and if the business succeeds then everyone wins but no one loses. In other words, all three elements of gambling are not present in business and in many other things people call a “gamble”.

Christians must avoid gambling because it violates God’s will concerning how man can make increase. It also violates God’s teaching concerning loving our neighbor. Finally, it is sinful because it is motivated by greed.

-Philip Smith

### The Word of God Is Described As:

1. A lamp and light: Psa. 119:105; Pro. 6:23
2. A mirror: Jam. 1:23-25
3. A Fire: Jer. 5:14; 23:29
4. A hammer: Jer. 23:29
5. A sword: Eph. 6:17 (Rev. 1:16; Rev. 2:16; Rev. 19:11-16, 21)
6. Seed: Luk. 8:11

**James 1:21** *"21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."*

## A Voice From the Past That is Timely Today

**F.G. Allen (deceased)**

“Unless we have a distinctive plea we have no right to exist. The day we become like the denominations around us, that day ends our right to exist as a distinct religious people. If we have a distinctive plea, in that consists our strength. I believe that our distinctive principles are made less prominent in our pulpit now than formerly. I do not mean that our preachers should be always on what is called ‘first principles.’ Very far from it. But I do mean that all our members should be deeply indoctrinated in the things that distinguish us from other religious peoples. The people should understand WHY they occupy the position they do. The better this is understood the more it will be appreciated, and the more firm and consistent will be the Christian life. When people are led to believe that sectarianism is about as good as New Testament Christianity their influence for the cause we plead is positively hurtful. Whenever we begin to curry favor with the sects and fawn upon them for recognition, we are certain to say but little about a plea that lays the axe at the root of the whole denominational tree. Whenever we begin to curry favor with the world, we are certain to fall in with the world’s notions, and adjust ourselves to the world’s ways. Hence much of that in which churches now indulge in the way of worldly amusements, carnal methods of raising money, the spirit of mere entertainment in the worship, etc., is due to the fact that they copy the sects, rather than the New Testament churches; and are filled with the spirit of the world, instead of the spirit of Christ.”

{Jess Whitlock, from whom we borrowed the foregoing article, noted: “These words were penned by brother Allen in the year of 1926. It is now 2017, and his timely warning is still desperately needed today.”}