

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



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A "LOT" to Think About



DEAR BROTHER FAULL,

If the Bible talks about casting lots, then why isn't gambling allowed?

ANSWER:

In reality, I'm not trying to give insight to those who have to have a proof text such as "Thou shalt not gamble."

I just can't remember where the verse, "Thou shalt not gamble" is, but it's right under the verse that says, "Thou shalt not look at pornography, neither shalt thou play with an ouija board, nor shalt thou smoke pot or shoot heroin in thy arm nor assist another with suicide".

You see no Biblical authority against a Church body deciding for or against legal money. Would it be okay then to accept prostitution money in Nevada since it is a legal profession? In Alabama gambling is illegal so in that state, the Church would have to refrain from taking the money because it would not be legal money, right?

Do laws make things ethical? Would I want an abortion Doctor's tithe? (I would dis-fellowship him, personally.)

The Jew used the casting of lots as an appeal to God to determine His Will. It was used in selecting the scapegoat, dividing the land by tribes, Jonathan was

spared, Achan was exposed, David chose between Priests, Nehemiah used it to determine Priests' duties, and who could come into Jerusalem, even the sailors who threw Jonah overboard - used it to determine His Will. The Apostles used lots for choosing the substitute for Judas.

The Gentiles also used it to decide matters of covetousness such as who got the prisoner, the captive, or the garment of Jesus.

The Jew considered the use of casting of lots to decide a matter of covetousness as a profaning a sacred ordinance that was used to determine the Will of God. They felt it was as though one took the name of the Lord in vain to cast lots.

I believe from **Proverbs 16:33**, "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD", that we can see it was a principle that the casting of lot was intended to be a religious use, not something to promote ones greed. Just as the use of dice is neither moral nor immoral, so it is with casting of lots. We are back to motive.

I agree with Barnes' Notes: "*Still less does the example of the apostles authorize games of hazard, or lotteries, which are positively evil, and attended with ruinous consequences, apart from any inquiry about the lawfulness of the lot. They either originate in, or promote, covetousness, neglect of regular industry, envy, jealousy, disappointment, dissipation, bankruptcy, falsehood, and despair. What is gained by one is lost by another, and both the gain and the loss promote some of the worst passions of man: boasting, triumph, self-confidence, indolence, dissipation, on the one hand; and envy, disappointment, sullenness, desire of revenge, remorse, and ruin, on the other. God intended that man should live by sober toil. All departures from this great law of our social existence lead to ruin.*"

I have written a pamphlet on Gambling if you care to read it, that may help one exercise their senses to good and evil