

**WOE TO WALKER COUNTY**  
**(Isaiah 5:18-23)**

**I. WOE TO THOSE WHO CONFUSE MORAL DISTINCTIONS**

- A. Due to their own wickedness they pervert morality and truth to their own choosing.
  - 1. To enjoy and justify evil and all sin they simply call it good and indulge.
  - 2. The distort truth, misrepresent evil and justify iniquity.
- B. Doesn't the world do likewise today?
  - 1. There is no chastity today, only safe sex.
  - 2. Homosexuality is only another lifestyle, and to protect it is nobly defending civil rights.
  - 3. Gambling is mere governmental revenue, and the lottery is the living hope of the masses.

**II. WHAT ABOUT WALKER COUNTY?**

- A. Let me say now before I go any further that I am neither a lawyer nor the son of a lawyer. And therefore do not know anything about its legality.
  - 1. I am not here to commend or to condemn any of our elected officials.
  - 2. I simply do not know who had the power to stop this problem before it reached what appears to me to be epidemic proportions.
  - 3. I do know assuredly that politicians, sheriffs, judges and all elected officials have a great appointment one day with the same Judge, as do I.
- B. It is my understanding that the loophole that has allowed this problem to blossom was voted upon back in 1992. It is my understanding that people thought they were voting on whether or not to allow organizations to wager upon paper bingo with the profit gained going to local charities.
  - 1. I want you to realize what that simple amendment that sounded so good to the majority of Walker County citizens actually was---SIN!!!!
  - 2. You see any and all types of gambling are just that SIN.
  - 3. What a slippery slope that sin is. If the people of Walker County had rejected this type of sin when first introduced we would not have this problem today.
- C. Present Day
  - 1. Many are once again on the devil's side in the battle today.
  - 2. Many of the Lord's church could be counted as being on the devil's side because they choose to remain silent. Silence is SIN!!
  - 3. Many are in favor of the people of Walker County voting on this issue. Let me be extremely clear, it does not matter how many vote for sin, SIN is still SIN and will Be Sin Forever!!

**III. GAMBLING IN ANY FORM IS SIN**

- A. The word "gamble" is not found in the Bible.
  - 1. Neither is manslaughter, rape, larceny, bootlegging, dope peddling, etc.

2. A thing is sinful if it violates a direct statement, principle, or any other teaching given in the Bible.
- C. What Does The Bible Teach On This Subject?
1. The Bible teaches that man is to provide for his own needs through honest work.
    - a. This was true in Eden and remained true after man's expulsion from the garden. Genesis 2:15; 3:19
    - b. God requires that we today work for our living. II Thess. 3:10-12
    - c. Honest labor is commanded in order to help the needy. Eph. 4:28
    - d. Gambling discourages honest labor; it encourages one to risk what he has in order to get something for nothing at someone else's expense.
  2. Gambling violates the Golden Rule of Matt. 7:12
    - a. Gambling tries by trickery, luck, and skill to take from another that which rightly belongs to that other person.
    - b. When a man gambles, he is hoping to do something to others that he does not want done to him.
  3. Gambling violates the second great commandment. Mark 12:31
    - a. Romans 13:10
    - b. Taking money from someone by skill or trickery contradicts this principle.
  4. Gambling greatly harms a Christian's influence.
    - a. I pray often that there are no those who wear the name Christian involved in this electronic gambling in our county.
    - b. Matt. 5:13-16
    - c. I Tim. 4:12
    - d. I Peter 2:11-12
    - e. We must abstain from all appearance of evil.

#### IV. **MANY EXCUSES ARE MADE TO JUSTIFY GAMBLING**

- A. Other Gamblers Consent To My Taking Their Money, Else They Would Not Gamble.
  1. They cannot give you the right to violate Biblical principles. Could your spouse give you the right to commit adultery? Could a preacher give you the right to take the Lord's name in vain?
  2. It is sinful to harm another one even with his consent.
- B. Life Is A Gamble
  1. Investing in the stock market, farming, betting on horses, playing bingo for cash, buying a lottery ticket, are only different forms of taking a calculated risk. This argument is heard often.
  2. The outcome of planting a crop or engaging in some other worthy enterprise is determined primarily by the good, honest effort of the individual, and not by risk-taking or mere chance.
  3. Honest endeavors have God's approval and assistance and the uncertainty involved in for example farming certainly teaches one to

- have greater trust in God and to ask for His help.
4. The rewards of honest effort (farming, cattle-raising, and business investments) do not deprive others of their money or property.
  5. Gambling always involves a loser even though he might not be sitting in front of you.
- C. If The Result Of Gambling Advances A Good Cause, It Is All Right.
1. Denominations playing Bingo at church raises money for orphans, helps feed the needy, etc, thus it is acceptable.
  2. Charity Bingo supports many worthwhile charities.
  3. Even doing good does not permit us to disregard what God has said. Examples of Nadab and Abihu Lev. 10 and Saul in I Sam. 13; 15:22
  4. If serving good justifies gambling, why not set up houses of prostitution? Or make counterfeit money? Or embezzle from a rich company? None of these appear to hurt anyone directly and much money could be raised for worthy causes!! These activities and gambling are wrong.

From a sermon by Scott Webster