

## Gambling Is Bad

### Elders

John Deffenbaugh  
Benny Haught  
Rick Hyder  
Tim Murray  
Bill Reiboldt

### Deacons

Carl Cobb  
Barry Flint  
Casey Flint  
Josh King  
Mike Kidwell  
Bryan Reiboldt  
Jim Scott  
Peter Wald

### Preacher

Danny Boggs

### Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

### Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday  
6 p.m. Sunday

### Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday  
7 p.m. Wednesday

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Have I ever been inside a casino? No. Do I plan to ever visit one for fun? No. Don't some of them host some good concerts? I like good music, but not that much. Do I like lots of good food at a great price? You're starting to speak my language, but I know plenty of other places to find good food.

Jay Jani tells about the honest answer he got from a man who spends almost every day inside a casino:

*Since it was my first time in a Las Vegas casino, I asked an employee to walk me through how the slot machines worked. He showed me how to insert a bill, hit the spin button, and operate and release the handle.*

*"And where does the money come out?" I asked.*

*He pointed to a far wall. "From that ATM, most of the time." (Reader's Digest, Oct 2020, pp.16-17)*

"We're in the black and paying back!" boasted a nearby casino. That sounds like another honest admission. Now that they had their property loan paid off, they could afford to be more "generous" with money for gamblers to take home. They can't control the income, but they certainly regulate the outgo.

Some people gamble because they are desperate to meet a financial need. Some gamble because of abject greed. For others it has become a compulsion. Still others gamble for the occasional thrill, but that thrill is tied to greed. They wouldn't throw money out the car window. It's the tension created by a possible windfall.

Why shouldn't we gamble?

God gives us right ways to **get** money. Work, gifts, and investment are all Biblical. "...Aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and

be dependent on no one" (1 Thess. 4:11-12). Paul expressed appreciation to the Philippians: "Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit" (Phil. 4:16-17). In Jesus' parable, the master praised the servants who invested and gained dividends on the money he entrusted to them (Matt. 25:14-30).

God gives us right ways to **use** money. We handle it right when we realize we are only managers of what really belongs to God (Gen. 1:26-28; Rom. 14:12, 1 Cor. 4:2). We use it well to provide for our own basic needs (2 Thess. 3:10-12), support our families (1 Tim. 5:8), fund the Lord's work (1 Cor. 16:1-3), help others in need (Eph. 4:28), pay taxes (Matt. 22:21, Rom. 13:7), and provide for future needs (Pr. 21:5).

**Gambling is both the wrong way to get money and the wrong way to use it.** It violates many Biblical principles and commands about trust in God and love for people.

Someone might object that all of life is risky and that investing in particular is a gamble. But investment in stock is part ownership of a business. Money is made because goods or services exchange hands. I only get what I want, a profit, because others get what they want—goods or services. It's not predicated on someone else losing in order for me to win.

"Gambling is risking something of value, hoping for substantial gain, which is generated by the losses of others who are participating in a similar risk" (Peter W. Cooper, "Gambling: Wrong by Definition," *Gospel Advocate*, Mar 1994, p.20).

Danny Boggs

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Carol Bessman, Bethany Boggs, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Jaren Dodson, Vern Foster, Joe and Teresa Freund, Ervin and Wilma Hill, Justin Houston, Nadine Keith, Cheryl Neilans, McKinley O'Connell, Lyn Pendergraft, Andy Rasbury, Edith Toney.

Coral Haggard is home recovering from a broken ankle and surgery.

Edith Toney is home following surgery.

Joyce Clarkson is now at the Medicalodge.

Brylee King injured her leg and is seeing doctors this week for a treatment plan.

There will be a **memorial service** for Dale Privett this Saturday at 1:00 here at the building.



**Every "One" Counts:** When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. This week we helped a local family where both parents had Covid and due to complications lost an unborn child. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

**Devo and Donuts** meets every Tuesday at 7:00 in the activities center. Come and invite a friend.



If you are not able to be at church, visit our Facebook page, website or YouTube channel to see or hear our services **online**. Services will be at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on Sundays and 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. .

Our **new deacons** will be commissioned at the end of this Sunday morning's worship assembly.



## This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: *Do You Want to Get Well?*  
(John 5:6, Danny Boggs)

PM: *Really Good Fruit, Really Bad Fruit*  
(Danny Boggs)

### PRAYER LEADERS

#### Sunday, September 27

AM Opening Prayer: Benny Haught  
Communion Prayers: Wayne Douthitt  
AM Closing Prayer: Bryan Reiboldt

PM Opening Prayer: Charlie Collinsworth  
PM Closing Prayer: bob Murray

#### Wednesday, September 30

Opening Prayer: Jason Giebler  
Closing Prayer: Harold Speir

**Pete Babb** announced Sunday that he will be stepping down as a deacon. He and Pam will continue to worship with us, but he will transition out of his roles as the new deacons begin theirs. We are thankful for all of the good work Pete has done.

**Elders and deacons** will meet in the fellowship room after services Sunday night.

**Ladies' Bible Class** will resume next Thursday, Oct. 1, at 10:00 in the fellowship room with more study of forgiveness.

The youth group will be attending the **TriState Youth Series** on October 4 in Joplin. The van will leave at 3:30.

Our Week 2 Weekend at **GVBC** October 9-11 is shaping up and fast approaching! All our counselors are signed up and making plans, and they can't wait to see all the campers. The weekend is for everyone who would have been the right age for camp this summer: anyone who is at least 11 years old by October 1 through anyone who graduated from high school this year. Register today at [www.neoshochurchofchrist.org/week-two-weekend](http://www.neoshochurchofchrist.org/week-two-weekend).



Join us for a weekend of fun and fellowship at an all-church **campout** at Grand Lake State Park at Bernice, OK, October 23-25. The cost is \$4 per person per night. You are welcome to stay one or two nights, and we will have a worship service on Sunday morning. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the office. For more information, contact Casey or Amanda Flint.

Jason Jackson will be with us October 4-7 for a **gospel meeting**. His theme will be "Standing on the Promises of God." The lessons will emphasize why our faith can and should persist, even in a year like 2020!

If you would like to have Jason Jackson in your home for a **meal** during the meeting, see Coralee.



RECORDS	9-20-20	9-22-19
Bible Study	95	186
AM Worship	146	208
PM Worship	116	158
Wednesday	103	148
Contribution	\$6,802.66	\$8,347.89
Budget	\$7,864.15	\$7,717.37