



# The Voice Of Truth

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### *Am I Your Enemy*

By Jimmy Pettigrew

*"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" Galatians 4:16.* Paul did not desire to become an enemy of these brethren he loved. Because he loved them, however, he told them what they needed to hear rather than what they wanted to hear. It is hard to know people's reaction when you speak the truth, the whole counsel of God. It may hit and hurt. We are to speak the truth in **love (Ephesians 4:15)**; but we must speak the truth. It was Paul's duty to tell them the truth of God. It is the duty of every member of the body of Christ to present the truth even if it hurts, even to people who have itching ears. Too many people want soothing, deceitful messages instead of the truth (**Isaiah 30:10**).

We have been taught that preaching and teaching the oracles of God will make some enemies of the cross and of those who stand for the truth (**Philippians 3:17-19**).

In the words of Paul, *"I am your enemy if I*

*tell you the truth"* that:

(1) There is one true church. This fact is seen in Paul's proclamation: He declared that there is "one body" (**Ephesians 4:4**). He affirmed that the body is the church (**Ephesians 1:22-23**).

(2) That salvation is only in Christ's church. All spiritual blessings are *"in Christ"* (**Ephesians 1:3**); forgiveness (**Ephesians 1:7**); redemption (**Colossians 1:14**); sonship (**Galatians 3:26-27**). The same process whereby one gets into Christ is the same way one gets into the body (church) of Christ (**Galatians 3:26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-20; Ephesians 5:23**).

Men need to hear the truth. Those who pervert the gospel are our enemies (**Galatians 1:6-9**). Error will not save; it condemns (**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**).

## ONE MAN SAID

"I do not go to church on Sunday because I was never taught to go when I was young, so I did not form the habit," so said one man. Another man says: "I do not go to church on Sunday because I was forced to go when I was young, and it grew distasteful to me." Someone else said: "One excuse is as good as another when you do not want to do a thing." Still another man said: "*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord,*" **Psalm 122:1**. We ought to pay attention to the wisest one!

—borrowed—

## IS THE STOCK MARKET GAMBLING?

Jimmy Pettigrew

Some contend that every form of taking a chance is gambling, and is wrong. Others contend that we take chances every time we step outside the house, and thus that gambling is not wrong. The truth lies somewhere between those two extremes. Let's first define gambling. Assorted dictionaries define gambling as *to play games of chance for money, to risk money on uncertain gain, to stake or risk money, etc. in the hope of great gain.*

Gambling occurs in a variety of forms in our society: card games, throwing dice, slot machines, betting on horse or dog races, buying sweepstakes or raffle tickets, betting on sporting events, buying lottery tickets, playing bingo for money or prizes, and even pitching pennies. The reason it is wrong is because it appeals to greed, to the idea of getting something for nothing and profiting from someone else's loss - all of which are condemned in the Scriptures. Everyone who gambles is hoping to win money from others, and

no one wants to lose the money they gamble. This fundamental facet of gambling is in direct conflict with the heart and core of Christianity as stated by Jesus in **Matthew 7:12**. By definition, the gambler is treating others the way he, himself, does not want to be treated. He wishes to take the money of others but does not want them to take his money.

Thus, gambling is wrong because it is based in lust and greed, or the love of money (**1 Timothy 6:10**). God wants us to work in order to secure funding for daily living for self, family, and the needy (**1 Timothy 5:8; Galatians 6:10**). But making money to live is very different from living to make money.

Someone may say it is okay to gamble since all of life is a gamble. While living life entails risk, it does not match the components characteristic of the gambling we've been discussing. When a farmer plants a crop, he is acting in harmony with the work ethic. If his crop fails, no one else loses. He is not attempting to take through chance the possessions of others. They live by the principle, the laborer is worthy of his hire (**1 Timothy 5:18**), and they seek a financial return for their investment and labor. That is not gambling, even though some chance is involved. It is Biblical.

But, what about the stock market? When you buy stock in Wal-Mart, IBM, Microsoft, etc., you are actually investing money in that company. The investor who puts money into a corporation is doing so to help the corporation succeed. He's not attempting to take what belongs to others. Products and services are being provided for the community. By no means is the investor seeking to take money without giving something in return. Is it wrong to invest in the stock market? **ABSOLUTELY NOT!**