

>> MY NAME IS CLIFF GOODWIN. I THANK YOU FOR JOINING IN TODAY FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL. I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE A BIBLE CLOSE BY AT HOME, AND I INVITE YOU TO BE TAKING IT DOWN PRESENTLY AND TO OPEN THE WORD OF GOD WITH ME. OUR GOAL AND OUR INTENT IS TO GO TO THE BIBLE HERE FOR EACH AND EVERY BROADCAST IN HOPES THAT WE CAN LEARN MORE OF THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR LIVES AND MAKE APPLICATION OF IT, THEREBY BEING DRAWN CLOSER AND CLOSER TO OUR CREATOR. TODAY I WANT US TO STUDY ABOUT A MORAL ISSUE THAT PROBABLY WILL NOT PROVE TO BE THE MOST POPULAR THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. SO OFTEN WHEN WE ADDRESS MORALITY FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE, THAT PROVES TO BE VERY UNPOPULAR WITH THOSE IN THE WORLD; AND YET AS CHILDREN OF GOD, WE ARE TO BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, MATTHEW 5:16. AND IN ORDER FOR US TO BE LIGHT IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD'S STANDARD OF MORALITY. WHAT GOD SAYS OR TEACHES IS RIGHT IS RIGHT INDEED; AND WHAT GOD TEACHES OR SAYS IS WRONG IS WRONG INDEED. AND AS CHILDREN OF GOD, WE MUST NEVER CONFORM TO THE WORLD OR TO ITS PSEUDO-MORALITY, ROMANS 12:2; BUT INSTEAD, WE MUST BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF OUR MINDS. AND THAT OF COURSE COMES FROM THE WORD OF GOD AND ITS POWER. NOW, ALL OF THAT BEING SAID, YOU MIGHT BE ASKING, WELL, WHAT IS THIS TOPIC? WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT TODAY? LET'S ADDRESS THE SIN OF GAMBLING. THE SIN OF GAMBLING. I KNOW THAT GAMBLING IS MORE PREVALENT IN OUR NATION TODAY PERHAPS THAN WHAT IT HAS EVER BEEN. I MEAN, THERE ARE CASINOS IN SO MANY LOCATIONS, LOTTERIES IN VIRTUALLY ALL THE STATES. THERE ARE A FEW HOLDOUTS, BUT LOTTERIES ARE COMMONPLACE, CASINO GAMBLING, HORSE TRACK GAMBLING, DOG TRACK GAMBLING, AND THE LIST GOES ON AND ON. AND I DIDN'T EVEN MENTION SPORTS BETTING. AND MY, WHAT AN INDUSTRY THAT HAS BECOME, AND IT'S EVEN BECOME MORE AND MORE MAINSTREAM. WELL, I'LL BE UP FRONT, AND I'LL TELL YOU FROM THE BEGINNING THAT ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, THE BIBLE, GAMBLING IS A SIN. IT'S CONTRARY TO THE WORD OF GOD. NOW, I WILL ADMIT THERE IS NOT A VERSE ANYWHERE IN SCRIPTURE THAT SAYS, THOU SHALT NOT GAMBLE. THAT'S NOT IN THERE. BUT NEITHER, MIND YOU, NEITHER IS THE STATEMENT, THOU SHALT NOT SMOKE MARIJUANA, THOU SHALT NOT SHOOT UP HEROIN. YOU DON'T FIND THOSE STATEMENTS IN SCRIPTURE, EITHER, AND YET WE UNDERSTAND THAT ILLICIT DRUG USE OR DRUG ABUSE IS SINFUL. WHY? BECAUSE IT VIOLATES BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES. THERE ARE PRINCIPLES REVEALED AND TAUGHT CLEARLY IN SCRIPTURE THAT SHOW US WHY A CHILD OF GOD SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ILLICIT DRUG USE OR DRUG ABUSE. AND BY THE SAME TOKEN, THERE ARE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES THAT HELP US TO UNDERSTAND WHY GAMBLING IS CONTRARY TO THE WILL OF GOD; AND THEREFORE, IT MUST BE SHUNNED, IT MUST BE AVOIDED BY THOSE WHO WOULD LIVE FAITHFULLY THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. SO WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO TODAY IN STRUCTURING THIS STUDY IS I WANT US TO BASICALLY DIVIDE OUR LESSON INTO TWO MAJOR PORTIONS. PORTION OR SEGMENT NUMBER ONE, I WANT US TO CONSIDER SOME ATTITUDES THAT ARE BEHIND GAMBLING. WHAT CAUSES A MAN OR A WOMAN TO GAMBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE? AND WHEN WE IDENTIFY SOME OF THESE ATTITUDES THAT ARE COMMONLY BEHIND THE PRACTICE, WELL, THEN WE WILL BE MORE READILY ABLE TO SEE WHY GAMBLING ITSELF IS SINFUL. AND THEN SECONDLY, IN THE SECOND PORTION, THE FINAL PORTION OF OUR STUDY, WE'LL TALK ABOUT SOME RESULTS THAT HAPPEN WITH GAMBLING. EACH TIME A PERSON GAMBLES, AT LEAST ONE OF TWO THINGS WILL HAPPEN. AND WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF THAT. AND WHEN WE REALIZE THOSE RESULTS, WE CAN ALSO REALIZE AGAIN WHY GAMBLING IS CONTRARY TO BIBLICAL TEACHING. SO LET'S GET INTO THE FIRST PORTION OF THIS STUDY, SOME ATTITUDES BEHIND GAMBLING. FIRST OF ALL,

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF COVETOUSNESS. COVETOUSNESS. ANOTHER WORD WOULD BE THE WORD GREED. AND WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE BIBLE HAS ALWAYS, IN TESTAMENTS BOTH OLD AND NEW, THE BIBLE HAS ALWAYS CONDEMNED COVETOUSNESS, INORDINATE GREED, WANTING MORE AND MORE AND MORE, EVEN TO THE POINT OF WARNING WHAT BELONGS RIGHTFULLY TO SOMEONE ELSE. NOW, THAT'S AT THE VERY HEART OF GAMBLING. WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL PLACES A BET OR MAKES A WAGER, IF YOU WILL, WHAT HE OR SHE IS DOING IS THEY'RE WANTING AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE FROM ANOTHER PERSON THE MONEY THAT RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO HIM OR HER. THEY'RE WANTING TO TAKE THAT INDIVIDUAL'S MONEY AND TO MAKE IT THEIR OWN, AND THAT WITHOUT LABORING, WITHOUT WORKING FOR IT OR EARNING IT IN ANY WAY, THAT SIMPLY BY MEANS OF A GAME OF CHANCE, BY PLACING SOMETHING AT STAKE, JEOPARDIZING IT AND THEREBY HOPEFULLY TAKING THEIR NEIGHBOR'S POSSESSIONS OR THEIR NEIGHBOR'S MONEY FOR THEMSELVES. COVETOUSNESS, THE ATTITUDE OF GREED, IS SINFUL. NOTICE WITH ME WHAT WE FIND IN ROMANS 7:7. WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN? IS THE LAW SIN? GOD FORBID! NAY, I HAD NOT KNOWN SIN BUT BY THE LAW; FOR I HAD NOT KNOWN LUST EXCEPT THE LAW HAD SAID, THOU SHALT NOT COVET. COVETING IS LUSTING OR DESIRING AFTER THE POSSESSIONS OF ANOTHER. AND EVEN UNDER THE OLD LAW OF MOSES, GOD'S WORD HAD POINTED OUT, AND HAD EMPHASIZED THE SINFULNESS OF THAT ATTITUDE, THAT ATTITUDE OF DESIRING AND LUSTING AFTER THAT WHICH BELONGED TO ANOTHER PERSON. AND THERE PAUL IN ROMANS 7:7, HE REFERENCED THE LAW. WE CAN GO BACK TO EXODUS 20:17, AND WE CAN READ THAT FOR OURSELVES STRAIGHT OUT OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. EXODUS 20:17, THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE, THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S WIFE, NOR HIS MANSERVANT, NOR HIS MAIDSERVANT, NOR HIS OX, NOR HIS ASS, NOR ANYTHING THAT IS THY NEIGHBOR'S. THOU SHALT NOT COVET. AND SO IN TESTAMENTS BOTH OLD AND NEW, ONCE MORE, WE KNOW THAT THE ATTITUDE OF COVETOUSNESS, GREED, WANTING WHAT BELONGS RIGHTFULLY TO ANOTHER, THAT IS A SINFUL ATTITUDE. IN FACT, IT IS EVEN CALLED IDOLATRY. NOTICE WITH ME IN COLOSSIANS 3:5 WHAT WE SEE. MORTIFY THEREFORE YOUR MEMBERS WHICH ARE UPON THE EARTH. FORNICATION, UNCLEANNESS, INORDINATE AFFECTION, EVIL CONCUPISCENCE, OR EVIL DESIRES, AND COVETOUSNESS, THIS GREED WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, AND THEN PAUL ADDED, WHICH IS IDOLATRY. COVETOUSNESS IS IDOLATRY. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THAT WITH ME, IN WHAT WAY COULD THE APOSTLE TELL US THAT COVETOUSNESS IS IDOLATRY? AND THE ANSWER IS, SIMPLY PUT, IN THAT ATTITUDE, IN THAT MINDSET, SOMEONE IS PUTTING THOSE POSSESSIONS AHEAD OF GOD. PERHAPS THEY'RE LOOKING TO POSSESSIONS AND RICHES AS THE SOURCE OF THEIR SECURITY. THEY'RE PLACING THEIR TRUST IN SUCH THINGS. WELL, OUR TRUST IS TO BE PLACED IN GOD, NOT IN GOLD. AND SO IN THAT WAY, COVETOUSNESS CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A FORM OF IDOLATRY. YOU AND I KNOW, DEAR FRIENDS AND VIEWERS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT IDOLATRY IS WRONG. WE UNDERSTAND THAT COVETOUSNESS AND GREED, THEY ARE WRONG. THAT'S SINFUL. SO THAT'S AN ATTITUDE BEHIND GAMBLING. AND IN THAT WAY, THE PRACTICE OF GAMBLING CAN BE SEEN TO BE WRONG AS WELL. NOW, SECONDLY, LET'S CONSIDER ANOTHER ATTITUDE THAT IS OFTEN ABACK GAMBLING. AND THIS ONE IS VERY CLOSELY RELATED TO COVETOUSNESS; BUT WHEREAS COVETOUSNESS, WE MIGHT THINK OF IT AS DESIRING TO TAKE WHAT BELONGS TO ANOTHER AND MAKE IT OUR OWN, EVEN FURTHER BEHIND THAT, MATERIALISM IS A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE. IT'S AN ATTITUDE OF LIFE IN WHICH A PERSON EMPHASIZES THE MATERIAL OVER THE SPIRITUAL. IT'S AS IF THE MATERIAL IS WHAT REALLY SUSTAINS LIFE OR WHAT REALLY KEEPS US GOING, NOT THE SPIRITUAL. AND OF COURSE THE BIBLE WARNS US AGAINST THAT MATERIALISTIC

ATTITUDE. IN LUKE 12:15 JESUS SAID, TAKE HEED, AND BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS; FOR A MAN'S LIFE CONSISTETH NOT IN THE ABUNDANCE OF THE THINGS WHICH HE POSSESSES. YOU TAKE A TYPICAL GAMBLER. DOES HE NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THAT IDEA, THAT A MAN'S LIFE ACTUALLY CONSISTS IN THE ABUNDANCE OF THE THINGS WHICH HE POSSESSES? IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S LOOKING TO MATERIAL THINGS, MATERIAL WEALTH AS HIS SECURITY, AS HIS LIFE-SUSTAINING SOURCE. AND YET THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW BETTER. ALL OF US AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW AND REALIZE THAT IT IS GOD WHO SUSTAINS US. IT IS NOT MERELY OUR WEALTH OR OUR POSSESSIONS, OUR MONEY. NO. THOSE ARE ALL BLESSINGS FROM GOD THAT GOD CAN USE TO SUSTAIN US; BUT THE ULTIMATE POWER BEHIND OUR LIFE AND OUR SUSTENANCE IS GOD, NOT GOLD, ONCE AGAIN. AND SO MATERIALISM IS FALSE. AND YET THE GAMBLER, THE ONE WHO IS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH MONEY THAT HE WISHES TO TAKE THAT BELONGING TO OTHERS, HE HAS A MATERIALISTIC MINDSET, NOT A SPIRITUAL MINDSET. CONSIDER ALSO WITH ME 1ST TIMOTHY 6, BEGINNING AT VERSE 6. PAUL WOULD RIDE AND COUNSEL THE YOUNGER TIMOTHY, SAYING, BUT GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN. FOR WE BROUGHT NOTHING INTO THIS WORLD, AND IT IS CERTAIN WE CAN CARRY NOTHING OUT. AND HAVING FOOD AND RAIMENT, LET US BE THEREWITH CONTENT. BUT THEY THAT WILL BE RICH, THEIR DESIRE, THEIR WILL IS TO BE RICH. PAUL SAID, THEY FALL INTO TEMPTATION AND A SNARE AND INTO MANY FOOLISH AND HURTFUL LUSTS WHICH DROWN MEN IN DESTRUCTION AND PERDITION. FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF EVIL, IS THE IDEA, WHICH, WHILE SOME COVETED AFTER, THEY CHASED AFTER, THEY DESIRED MORE AND MORE, THEY HAVE ERRED FROM THE FAITH AND PIERCED THEMSELVES THROUGH WITH MANY SORROWS. THAT TEXT, 1ST TIMOTHY 6:6-10, IT BEGAN IN VERSE 6 BY DISCUSSING CONTENTMENT, BUT IT ENDED IN VERSE 10 BY DISCUSSING COVETOUSNESS. DO YOU SEE THE CONTRAST? WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE NOT TO BE GREEDY, WE'RE NOT TO BE ABOUT MORE AND MORE AND MORE EVEN TO THE POINT OF WISHING I COULD TAKE WHAT IS HIS OR WISHING I COULD HAVE WHAT IS HERS. WE'RE NOT TO BE THAT WAY. GOD TELLS US, BE CONTENT WITH WHAT YOU HAVE. YOU ALREADY HAVE MORE THAN THAT WITH WHICH YOU WERE BORN. YOU WERE BORN INTO THIS WORLD WITH NOTHING. YOU WERE NAKED AS A BABY. YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE CLOTHES ON YOUR BACK. BE CONTENT WITH WHAT YOU HAVE. NOW, YOU TELL ME: CONTENTMENT, IS THAT THE MINDSET, IS THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE GAMBLER? AND THE ANSWER IS AN OBVIOUS NO, IT'S NOT. COVETOUSNESS, GREED, YES, THAT FACTORS INTO GAMBLING. MATERIALISM, MONEY IS MOST IMPORTANT, YES, THAT FACTORS INTO GAMBLING. BUT NOT CONTENTMENT. CONTENTMENT IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THE ATTITUDE OF SOMEONE WHO GAMBLES AND WHO WISHES TO TAKE THE MONEY, THE POSSESSIONS OF OTHERS. REMEMBER WHAT THE HEBREWS AUTHOR WROTE IN HEBREWS 13:5. HE SAID, LET YOUR CONVERSATION, LET YOUR MANNER OF LIFE BE WITHOUT COVETOUSNESS, AND BE CONTENT WITH SUCH THINGS AS YOU HAVE; FOR HE HATH SAID, I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE NOR FORSAKE THEE. ISN'T IT INTERESTING THAT HERE IS YET ANOTHER PASSAGE IN WHICH CONTENTMENT IS CONTRASTED WITH COVETOUSNESS? AND THE GROUNDS OF OUR CONTENTMENT, WHY CAN I, AS A CHILD OF GOD, WHY CAN I BE CONTENT WITH MY LOT, MY STATION IN LIFE? WHY? BECAUSE GOD'S WITH ME. GOD HAS PROMISED HE WILL NEVER LEAVE ME NOR FORSAKE ME. WHAT MORE DO I NEED? IN THE BIG PICTURE, WHAT MORE DO I NEED? WHAT MORE, DEAR BROTHER OR SISTER, DO YOU NEED? THERE'S ONE MORE ATTITUDE THAT I WANT US TO TALK ABOUT THAT SOMETIMES IS BEHIND THE PRACTICE OF GAMBLING, AND THIS IS THE ATTITUDE OF DESPERATION. DESPERATION. SADLY, MANY PEOPLE GAMBLE, AND THIS ESPECIALLY APPLIES TO THOSE WHO USE THE LOTTERY AND WHO GAMBLE BY MEANS OF THE LOTTERY. AND YES,

IF YOU'RE WONDERING, THE LOTTERY IS A FORM OF GAMBLING. CHILDREN OF GOD SHOULD NOT PLAY THE LOTTERY, SIMPLY PUT. BUT OFTEN THE REASON WHY MANY PEOPLE DO PLAY THE LOTTERY IS BECAUSE OF DESPERATION. PERHAPS THEY'VE FALLEN UPON HARD TIMES FINANCIALLY, PERHAPS THEY HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF DEBT, A MOUNTAIN OF BILLS THEY WOULD WISH TO PAY, AND OUT OF DESPERATION THEY'RE WILLING TO GIVE THEIR LAST DOLLAR. MANY LOTTERY TICKETS COULD BE BOUGHT FOR A DOLLAR. OR MAYBE THEIR LAST TWO OR THREE DOLLARS. THEY'RE WILLING TO JEOPARDIZE, ESSENTIALLY THROW AWAY THEIR LAST FEW DOLLARS IN HOPE, JUST A FALSE HOPE OF HITTING IT BIG, WINNING IT BIG AND ALL OF THEIR FINANCIAL PROBLEMS GOING AWAY. DESPERATION. IT'S TRULY AN ATTITUDE THAT LIES BEHIND SO MANY PEOPLE'S GAMBLING. AND WHAT'S UNFORTUNATE, YEA, TRAGIC ABOUT THIS IS THAT IT FORMS A SPIRAL, A CYCLE IN WHICH, YOU KNOW, I WAS ALREADY DESPERATE, NOW I'VE LOST WHAT LITTLE I'VE HAD, I'M EVEN MORE DESPERATE. AS SOON AS I CAN GET MY HAND ON SOME MORE MONEY, I'M GOING TO GAMBLE BECAUSE I NEED TO MAKE ALL THIS BACK. AND YOU CAN SEE THE CYCLE. YOU CAN SEE HOW DEVASTATING IT BECOMES. THAT ATTITUDE OF DESPERATION, IT REMINDED ME OF A TEXT WE FIND IN PROVERBS 30. NOTICE PROVERBS 30 BEGINNING AT VERSE 8. THE WISE MAN SAID, REMOVE FAR FROM ME VANITY AND LIES; GIVE ME NEITHER POVERTY NOR RICHES. HOW WISE FOR SOMEONE TO SAY, YOU KNOW WHAT, I HOPE I'M NEITHER POOR, I HOPE I'M NEITHER RICH. GIVE ME NEITHER POVERTY NOR RICHES. SIMPLY FEED ME WITH THE FOOD CONVENIENT, THE FOOD NECESSARY FOR ME. LEST, VERSE 9, LEST I BE FULL AND DENY THEE, AND SAY, WHO IS THE LORD? OR LEST I BE POOR AND STEAL AND TAKE THE NAME OF MY GOD IN VAIN. THAT CONCLUDING STATEMENT, LEST I BE POOR AND STEAL AND TAKE THE NAME OF MY GOD IN VAIN, THAT REMINDED ME OF DESPERATION. AND YOU KNOW, THOSE POOR SOULS WHO ARE DESPERATE, THOSE POOR SOULS WHO ARE LACKING AND ARE IN NEED, THEY DO NOT NEED TO GAMBLE. GAMBLING IS NOT THEIR SOLUTION. THEY NEED TO FIND THE LORD. THEY NEED TO MAKE THEIR LIVES RIGHT WITH GOD SPIRITUALLY AND FIND THEMSELVES AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE, GOD'S FAMILY. AND YOU KNOW WHAT? OBEYING THE GOSPEL, THAT DOESN'T SOLVE YOUR FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. I'M NOT MEANING TO SAY THAT. BUT WHAT I'M SAYING IS, IS IF WE BEGIN PUTTING GOD FIRST, AND IF WE GET OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES RIGHT FIRST, THEN SO OFTEN OTHER THINGS HAVE A WAY OF FALLING INTO PLACE. IF NOTHING ELSE, ONCE WE'RE A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY, WE HAVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO HELP US. WE HAVE ASSISTANCE. WE LEARN THE TRUE MEANING OF COMPASSION AND BENEVOLENCE. AND THE GOSPEL IS ALWAYS THE ANSWER, NOT GAMBLING. THE GOSPEL OVER GAMBLING EVERY TIME. AND SO PART NUMBER ONE NOW, WE'VE TALKED ABOUT SOME ATTITUDES. AND NO DOUBT THERE ARE PROBABLY OTHER ATTITUDES THAT LIE ABACK THE PRACTICE OF GAMBLING. BUT NOW LET'S MOVE INTO THE SECOND PORTION OF OUR STUDY. AND THAT IS I WANT US TO NOTICE TWO RESULTS OF GAMBLING THAT HAPPEN. ONE OF THESE HAPPENS FOR THE GAMBLER EVERY TIME HE FOLLOWS THROUGH WITH A WAGER. EVERY TIME HE PLACES A BET AND FOLLOWS THROUGH WITH THAT, ONE OF TWO THINGS IS GOING TO HAPPEN FOR HIM IN HIS LIFE. LET'S CONSIDER THE FIRST OF THESE NOW. NUMBER ONE, EITHER HE'S TAKEN WHAT WAS NOT HIS, HE'S TAKEN WHAT WAS NOT HIS. THIS OF COURSE, WOULD BE IN THE CASE THAT HE WINS. HE PLACES THAT BET, HE BUYS THAT LOTTERY TICKET, HE MAKES THIS WAGER, WHATEVER THE SCENARIO IS, AND HE WINS. WELL, THE RESULT IS HE'S NOW TAKEN WHAT WAS NOT HIS. FOR THIS REASON, SOME THROUGH THE YEARS HAVE CALLED GAMBLING THIEVERY BY CONSENT, OR STEALING BY CONSENT. AND YOU KNOW, DEAR VIEWERS, THAT'S REALLY ACCURATE. THAT'S WHAT GAMBLING IS. IT'S THIEVERY BY CONSENT. I'VE TAKEN WHAT WAS YOURS. IT'S NOT REALLY MINE, BUT NOW IT'S MINE. I'VE TAKEN

IT FROM YOU. AND YOU DIDN'T GIVE IT TO ME, I DIDN'T WORK FOR IT, BUT NOW IT'S MINE. YOU HAVE CONSENTED TO MY STEALING FROM YOU BY MEANS OF THIS ARTIFICIAL SCENARIO, THIS GAME OR THIS MATTER OF CHANCE, WHATEVER THE GAMBLING PROCESS INVOLVED. BUT YOU SEE THE RESULT. THINK ABOUT WHAT WE FIND IN EPHESIANS 4:28. PAUL SAID, LET HIM THAT STOLE STEAL NO MORE; BUT RATHER LET HIM LABOR. GET A JOB, GO TO WORK, LACK OF A BETTER TERM. RATHER LET HIM LABOR, WORKING WITH HIS HANDS THE THING WHICH IS GOOD. YOU KNOW, THERE'S HONOR, THERE IS NOBILITY IN WORKING, HONEST WORK. I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE DIGGING A DITCH. I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE SERVING BURGERS IN A FAST-FOOD RESTAURANT. THERE'S HONOR IN WORKING, IN BEING WILLING TO WORK. AND PAUL SAYS, LET HIM LABOR WITH HIS HANDS THE THING WHICH IS GOOD, THAT HE MAY HAVE TO GIVE TO HIM THAT NEEDED. THE CHRISTIAN DOES NOT STEAL. HE DOESN'T EVEN STEAL BY CONSENT THROUGH GAMBLING. THE CHRISTIAN HAS A BIBLICAL WORK ETHIC. HE SEES THE VALUE, THE NOBILITY, THE DIGNITY THAT'S IN HONEST WORK. AGAIN, I DON'T CARE HOW MENIAL THE TASK OR THE JOB MAY SEEM TO OTHERS. YOU'RE WORKING. THERE'S HONOR IN THAT. AND AS A CHILD OF GOD, YOU'RE DOING WHAT GOD TELLS YOU TO DO. YOU'RE WORKING SOMETHING WITH YOUR OWN HANDS THAT IS GOOD AND NOBLE SO THAT YOU CAN GIVE TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE PERHAPS WHO ARE UNABLE TO WORK. MAYBE THEY ARE DISABLED, MAYBE THEY ARE HANDICAPPED IN SOME WAY, AND THEY'RE UNABLE TO WORK; AND HERE YOU ARE AS A CHILD OF GOD, YOU'RE ABLE TO SHOW COMPASSION, YOU'RE ABLE TO WORK AND TO GIVE BENEVOLENCE. FRIENDS, THAT'S THE WAY GOD WANTS IT TO BE. GOD TELLS US TO WORK, NOT TO GAMBLE FOR OUR PROCEEDS AND FOR OUR SUSTENANCE. 2ND THESSALONIANS 3:10 REMINDS US OF THIS. PAUL SAID, FOR EVEN WHEN WE WERE WITH YOU, THIS WE COMMANDED YOU, THAT IF ANY WOULD NOT WORK, NEITHER SHOULD HE EAT. FRIENDS, IF THAT ONE PRINCIPLE RIGHT THERE WERE IMPLEMENTED THROUGHOUT AMERICAN SOCIETY, MY, WHAT AN UPHEAVAL THAT WOULD CAUSE IN OUR DAY AND TIME. IF OUR OWN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED THE PRINCIPLE, HEY, IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO WORK, AND YOU'RE ABLE, BUT YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO WORK, YOU DON'T EAT, MY, WHAT A DRASTIC CHANGE THAT WOULD CAUSE. AN UPHEAVAL, NO DOUBT. AND YET YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT'S GOD'S WAY. THAT'S GOD'S PRINCIPLE. AND SO TYPICALLY HOW ARE WE TO COME BY OUR MONEY? HOW ARE WE TO ACQUIRE THE FUNDS WE NEED FOR LIFE? WELL, BY WORKING, TYPICALLY. BUT ANOTHER MEANS IS IF SOMEONE FREELY GIVES US MONEY OR FREELY GIVES US THINGS. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT. THINK ABOUT LUKE 6:38. GIVE, JESUS SAID, GIVE, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU, GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN AND SHAKEN TOGETHER AND RUNNING OVER SHALL MEN GIVE INTO YOUR BOSOM; FOR WITH THE SAME MEASURE THAT YE METE, OR THAT YOU MEASURE OUT TO OTHERS WITHAL, IT SHALL BE MEASURED TO YOU AGAIN. NOW, THIS IS THE PROBLEM WITH GAMBLING. EVEN WHEN YOU WIN, YOU HAVE TAKEN WHAT BELONGED RIGHTFULLY TO ANOTHER, AND NUMBER ONE, YOU DIDN'T WORK FOR IT; NUMBER TWO, THEY DIDN'T FREELY GIVE IT TO YOU. YOU'VE BASICALLY STOLEN BY CONSENT. OH, SURE, THEY MIGHT HAVE HANDED YOU THE MONEY, BUT IT WAS GRUDGINGLY. IT WAS AGAINST THEIR WILL. YOU'VE TAKEN MONEY THAT THEY NEEDED. FOLKS, YOU SEE THE PROBLEM? EVEN WHEN A PERSON WINS, THERE'S STILL A PROBLEM WITH GAMBLING. GAMBLING IS SINFUL. NOW LET'S LOOK AT RESULT NUMBER TWO. AND THIS IS THE FLIP SIDE OF THE COIN. YOU AND I KNOW THIS, OR WE SHOULD KNOW IT ABOUT GAMBLING. THE REALITY IS A PERSON DOESN'T ALWAYS WIN. IF THEY WIN, WE'VE NOTICED THE PROBLEMS WITH THAT. BUT NOW IF THEY DON'T WIN, NUMBER TWO, YOU HAVE FOOLISHLY WASTED WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU. YOU HAVE FOOLISHLY WASTED WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU. YOU SAY, WELL, I LOST. YEAH, THAT'S THE PROBLEM. I

THINK ABOUT THE PRODIGAL SON IN LUKE 15:13, AND NOT MANY DAYS AFTER, THE YOUNGER SON GATHERED ALL TOGETHER. HE HAD GONE TO HIS FATHER. HE WANTED HIS INHERITANCE EARLY. HE GATHERED ALL TOGETHER AND TOOK HIS JOURNEY INTO A FAR COUNTRY, AND THERE WASTED HIS SUBSTANCE WITH RIOTOUS LIVING. NOW, DON'T CONFUSE THAT WORD RIOTOUS AS IT APPEARS IN THE KING JAMES VERSION, LUKE 15:13. DON'T CONFUSE THAT WORD WITH RIGHTEOUS, BECAUSE THAT'S NOT WHAT IT MEANS. THE WORD RIOTOUS MIGHT BE TRANSLATED RECKLESS, FOOLISH. THERE'S EVEN AN IDEA OF PERHAPS WASTEFULNESS OR EXCESS IN THIS WORD. IN OTHER WORDS, HE HAD BEEN GIVEN HIS INHERITANCE FROM HIS FATHER, AND NOW HE SQUANDERED IT. THE PRODIGAL SON, HE WENT INTO A FOREIGN LAND, AND HE SQUANDERED IT WITH RECKLESS, FOOLISH LIVING. THAT'S WHAT GAMBLING IS. SURE, YOU MIGHT WIN SOMETIMES; AND YET WE'VE NOTICED THE PROBLEMS WITH WINNING. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER TIMES WHEN YOU LOSE? WHAT KIND OF STEWARD HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THE BLESSINGS THAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU? NOT A GOOD ONE. AND IN 1ST CORINTHIANS 4:2, PAUL WROTE THIS ABOUT STEWARDS AND ABOUT STEWARDSHIP. HE SAID, MOREOVER, IT IS REQUIRED IN STEWARDS THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL. DEAR FRIENDS AND VIEWERS, EVERY GOOD AND EVERY PERFECT THING WE'RE GIVEN IN THIS LIFE, INCLUDING OUR MONEY, INCLUDING OUR JOBS AND OUR RESOURCES AND OUR HEALTH, EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS A GIFT FROM ABOVE, A GIFT FROM GOD; AND YOU AND I ARE STEWARDS ENTRUSTED WITH THOSE BLESSINGS. FOR THAT REASON, GAMBLING, AGAIN, IS SINFUL. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING WITH ME HERE TODAY AND FOR ENGAGING IN THIS STUDY TOGETHER. GOD BLESS.

>> (SINGING)