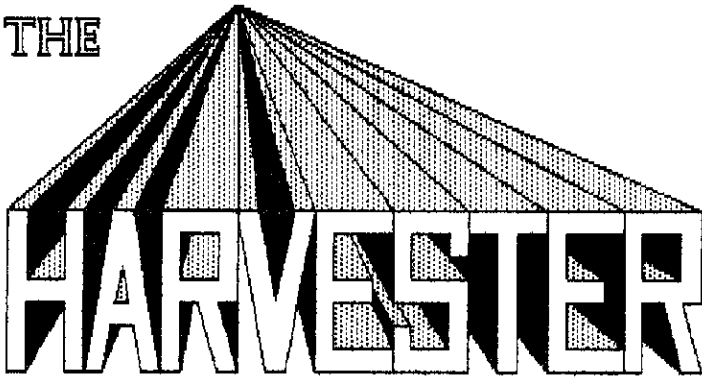


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

NOVEMBER 2002

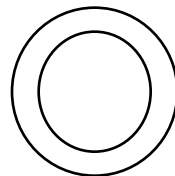
No. 203

FROM BABEL TO PENTECOST

Language is a very important aspect of man's society. It is his means of communicating to others, to express his thoughts and feelings. When people share a common language, they have the ability to accomplish great things together.

In Genesis 11:1, we find that *"the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech."* This suggests that the people of this age were a unified group. They journeyed together and dwelt together in

THE HARVESTER
1120 Sun Hill Road
Birmingham, AL 35215-4106



FORWARD & ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED



the land of Shinar (v.2). Then they made a decision to build a great tower that would reach up to heaven (v.4).

Being of one language, the people were fully equipped to complete such a difficult task. I think this is a beautiful example of what men can accomplish when they work together as a group. They had a common goal. However, the tower was being built for the wrong reason. It appeared to be a source of pride: "*let us make us a name*" (v.4). That is one danger we must constantly guard against, even when we are unified. Sometimes, as a unit, we can develop "family pride", "team pride", or "national pride".

Some have also pointed out that the Babel tower was a mistake because the people refused to be scattered. Were they avoiding God's earlier command (Gen. 9:1) to "*be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth*"? By refusing to scatter themselves upon the face of the earth, it has been interpreted that way.

While the people were building their tower, the Lord came down to visit the men and see their work (v.5). Obviously God was displeased. He noted their unity and their one language and what it resulted in (v.6). The people were working together, in singleness of heart, on the tower of Babel. Their imagination would lead to other sinful monuments. The Lord would have to put a stop to this project.

The Bible tells us that God stopped the people with one maneuver. He confounded

their language (v.7). No longer able to communicate with everybody, the people could not continue their building. Their efforts were not unified; the progress came to a standstill. They were confronted with many languages and many ideas and much confusion. I imagine it was total chaos, hence a world of babbling.

In the face of these new conditions, the people had no choice. They developed new groups comprised of common speeches and went their separate ways. The Lord had "*scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.*"(Gen. 11:8) From now on the whole world would not be unified. It would consist of several nations, with different languages and different cultures.

For about 2260 years, the world continued in this state of confusion and division. Occasionally a world power would arise, but it would never be strong enough to unite the entire earth. No, God had another plan to bring the world back into harmony. It would involve his Son, Jesus Christ.

On the day of Pentecost 30 A.D. in Jerusalem, God came down again to visit mankind in the form of His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). Many nations were present at this gathering (v.5). Then amidst all the different languages, a miracle occurred! The apostles spoke as if in one language! Every nation and every person could understand in their own tongue (vs. 7-8). It was like the days before the building of the Babel Tower.

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address and all correspondence to:

Ray McManus
 141 County Road 474
 Woodland, AL 36280
 Phone: (256) 449-9221

Suddenly the people were unified again. They could all understand the message that was being preached. It was a discourse about "*Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God*" (v.22) and how He fulfilled the position of both Lord and Christ (v.36). This gospel or "good news" had to be shared with the entire world, starting with the Jews.

It was necessary that the people become unified again and this was to be done through use of a common language. As a group, the people could then successfully accomplish God's work -- not a work of building towers but of spreading the gospel. Toward the end of the day of Pentecost, we note the cooperative efforts of the people. "*And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking of bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*" (Acts 2:46-47) This time God is well pleased with the work of his people.

From Babel to Pentecost, mankind has come full circle. At the Tower of Babel man

became scattered through the differences of his language. On Pentecost, man was reunited with God through the miracle of a universal language. A scattering effect took place again. But this time disciples multiplied (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:1) because "*they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.*" (Acts 8:4) God has a wonderful way of fulfilling his promises.

RAY McMANUS

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. To whom did God say to leave his country, his people, and his kindred and to go to an unknown land?
2. In the book of Esther, the Jews killed how many men in the capital city, Susa?
3. What did the soldiers say to Jesus in mock worship after He was sentenced to death?
4. A Christian's body is the temple of what?
5. What is the Old Testament book in which a large number of Hebrew men put away pagan wives?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. To whom was God talking when he said that women's sorrow and conception would be increased? EVE (Gen. 3:16)

2. After Joshua defeated Jericho, what city was attacked next? AI (Josh 7:2-4)
3. How did Paul and Barnabas show they were displeased with the attitudes of the Jews in Antioch? THEY SHOOK THE DUST FROM THEIR FEET AND DEPARTED (Acts 13:51)
4. According to 3 John, what are we not to do of evil, but do of good? FOLLOW IT (3 John 11)
5. After David hit Goliath with a stone, what did he do to him? CUT OFF HIS HEAD (1 Sam. 17:51)

KEEP THOSE GAMBLING DOLLARS IN ALABAMA! (QUIT GAMBLING.)

[Editor's Note: Within a few days, it will be election time. The lottery is once again an issue and so the following article is presented. It was first written in 1995 but is still as relevant today.]

The gambling lobbyists do not intend to let up until they have gotten what they want: a state lottery and casino gambling in Alabama. Their latest advertisement encourages Alabamians to call their state elected officials and tell them that you want to keep the dollars here that presently go to the Georgia or Florida lotteries, and/or the Mississippi casinos. And since the funds generated by such activities will go to education, it seems only reasonable, whether you like gambling or not, to let it come to a

popular vote. The lobbyists know that even non-gamblers will want to keep the money "at home."

What they do not tell you is the truth about gambling dollars. But thanks to a recent study done by 41 social service agencies in Mobile, AL, we now have some of those facts at our disposal. For every dollar brought in by legalized gambling in Alabama there will be an effective cost of at least \$1.25 up to \$2.50. Now if no other reason were given, that would be good enough cause to say, "No thanks!" to gambling.

The study lists the true effects of gambling on the people and communities involved. Job loss due to compulsive gambling is near the top. Costs of health care stemming from job loss will increase because those people and their dependents will now turn to government health departments and charitable institutions for assistance. They also believe that an increase in the spread of HIV, which causes AIDS, will naturally follow gambling because prostitution naturally follows gambling. Many (both male and female) will turn to this profession to pay for their gambling habit. Alcoholism also follows gambling, and that is expensive to society. Child services will see a dramatic increase in costs due to children being neglected or deserted by gambling parents. Dead-beat dads (and moms, too) will multiply. Individuals stranded in and around gambling centers because they gambled away their last dollar of travel money will turn to social services for a handout. Or they may turn to burglary,

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Nov. 1 - 3	New Bethel Church Cullman, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Nov. 4 - 8	Christian Chapel Church Burkesville, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Nov. 11 - 15	Oak Grove Church near Liberty, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Nov. 22 - 24	Gilstrap Church near Morgantown, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

* * * * *

(continued from page 7)

theft, or armed robbery to generate a "cash flow."

If no other reasons were given we could clearly affirm that gambling is ridiculously poor stewardship (1 Cor. 4:2). It also has some very wicked traveling companions (1 Thes. 5:22). And it seems inclined to rejoice more in iniquity than in the truth (1 Cor. 13:6). Gambling is born of covetousness (Col. 3:5). It thrives on the spirit of selfishness (Matt. 7:12). It is not of the Father, but of the world (1 Jn. 2:15-17). Shouldn't these Biblical reasons for not gambling take priority over any earthly concern? And yet by either measure gambling is bad business.

If we really want to keep those Alabama gambling dollars at home the solution is simple: do not gamble. Anything less is just not being honest with the facts.

--COPIED--