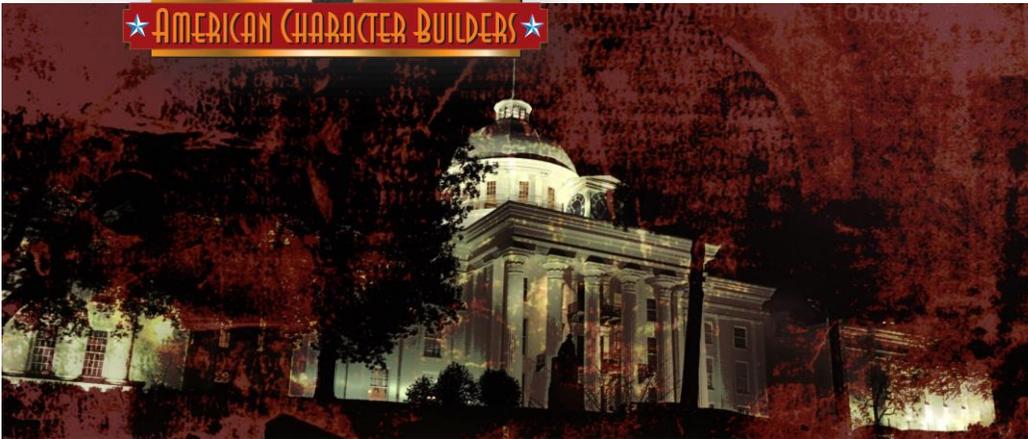


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But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good.

2 Thessalonians 3:13
(NKJV)

2020 Legislative Session looks to be a repeat of 2019 regarding gambling and medical marijuana

STATEWIDE — The 2019 Alabama Legislative Session ended with passage of a pro-life bill that it is hoped will be used to overturn the Roe v. Wade Decision of 1973 by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). The session also ended with a stalemate concerning gambling and medical marijuana.

Several pro-gambling bills were introduced, but most of them failed to pass because pro-gambling legislators cannot agree on what they want to pass. There are those who say they support a state-sponsored lottery, but do not support legalizing casinos. Others argue that they will only support a bill that legalizes both a lottery and casinos. As long as these two factions among the pro-gambling legislators cannot agree, Alabama will be safe from the gambling forces in this state.

The only pro-gambling bill that passed was one that legalizes Daily Fantasy Sports (DFS) in Alabama. Proponents argued that because skill is involved, DFS is not really gambling. ALCAP argued that all the elements of gambling are involved (a bet is placed or a person pays to play, chance is involved with regard to bad officiating and injuries, and a prize can be won at the expense of the losers). Because this is gambling, ALCAP argued, it should have required a constitutional amendment voted on by the citizens of Alabama. However, it was passed as a statute and is, therefore, unconstitutional. Because we lack the funds to do so, we cannot mount a legal challenge to this new law, so get ready for the onslaught of ads for Daily Fantasy Sports.

The medical marijuana law that eventually passed both the Senate

and the House, called for a study commission that we understood would study whether or not Alabama should pass a medical marijuana bill. However, at the first meeting of the commission, Sen. Tim Melson, who sponsored the bill during the 2019 Session, was elected as chairman and quickly indicated that he saw the commission's responsibility as helping him draft a medical marijuana bill for the 2020 Legislative Session.

ALCAP believes that legalizing medical marijuana should be done through proper research, the clinical trial process and the approval process of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), not by state legislators.

For more information on this and other legislative issues, visit our website...

www.ALCAP.com

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WHO WE ARE:

The Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP), originally founded in 1937 as the Alabama Temperance Alliance, serves together with local churches as Alabama's "moral compass." This ministry provides an outlet for churches throughout Alabama to fulfill God's command to His followers to be "salt & light" in our culture. (Matthew 5:13-16)

In 2010 ALCAP became a 501c4 organization (non-profit, but NOT tax-deductible) and renamed its school program "American Character Builders," a 501c3 organization (non-profit AND tax-deductible), having its own separate Board of Directors.

Churches are encouraged to support ALCAP while individuals are encouraged to support American Character Builders with their financial contributions and prayers.



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American Character Builders News

Updates on resources provided by American Character Builders

BIRMINGHAM, AL— American Character Builders resources continue to be available at our website...

www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org

We have downloadable materials that address, alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, bullying and our newest packet of resources on the opioid crisis (which appears on our homepage). American Character Builders has received grants to update our program on alcohol and we are currently working with faculty and students at Samford University to produce a short video (or possibly, a series of videos) and improved materials on this subject.

All of our resources are designed for use in public schools, but we also provide Bible studies for use in local churches. Church leaders may want to offer to teach one or more of our programs at local middle and high schools and then offer follow-up programs at their church for parents, school officials and community leaders.

At the church event, biblical principles can be introduced.

This is a great way for churches, schools and local civic and government entities to partner together in addressing the growing alcohol and drug problems that are confronting all demographic groups in our state and nation.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

Sharon Cook, who has been working with ALCAP and American Character Builders for over 24 years, has announced her retirement at the end of this year.

We are grateful for Sharon's sweet spirit and faithful service to this important ministry. She will be missed, but we wish her many fruitful years as she helps care for her family (and especially, her grandchildren).

Unapproved CBD products may not be as safe as they seem

*Kenneth Finn, MD – Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Pain Medicine
Colorado Springs, CO
May 26, 2019*

In recent years, a flood of cannabis and cannabis-derived products like CBD have entered the market – often claiming to cure or treat an array of health issues and ailments. These products are everywhere, but there is little scientific evidence to support the hype that surrounds them. As a doctor, I'm deeply concerned at where this industry is heading – and the potential risks to patients and consumers. I urge my peers to take this issue seriously and stand with me in addressing these growing concerns.

Silence is no way to help patients

The reality is that patients are being misled. As of yet, there is no clear and convincing evidence about the safety and efficacy of most cannabis products – and it's up to doctors to let our patients know.

Last year Epidiolex, a drug used to treat a narrow spectrum of seizures, became the only pharmaceutical formulation of purified, highly concentrated CBD to be approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

As with all prescription drugs, there are serious potential side effects, including liver toxicity, significant drug interactions, behavioral side effects such as suicidal behavior and ideation, as well as somnolence and sedation.

These risks can be managed if the person is under a doctor's supervision. But the risks cannot be properly monitored if no doctor is involved – which is typically the case when a person purchases an over-the-counter CBD product.

A local budtender might recommend these CBD products enthusiastically, but does the budtender realize that the product might be contaminated with heavy metals, pesticides, fungicides, rodenticides, insecticides, molds, E. coli, or fungus, just to name a few?

Labels can be misleading

In 2015 the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published a research paper demonstrating that in 23 percent of samples tested, THC levels were higher than indicated on the product label, which could put people at risk of experiencing other adverse events.

Sixty percent contained THC below the level claimed on the product label, which could leave the patient unable to achieve the desired medical benefit. Forty-one (41) percent had no detectable levels of CBD.

Upon evaluating more than ten thousand cannabis products, the State of California discovered that 18 percent failed tests for potency and purity.

And Oregon released a report earlier this year that noted the state has failed to keep up with mandatory inspections, reaching only three percent of its dispensaries, and admitting that its poor testing potentially exposes consumers to multiple contaminants from cannabis products.

Bogus medical claims

Many producers of products containing CBD are making unfounded medical claims regarding their products' ability to cure or alleviate many diseases and conditions.

The FDA has very strict regulations on such activity and has issued warnings to some organizations that are selling CBD products. Unfortunately, enforcement is rare. And products with very high CBD concentrations are widely available.

Some of these businesses continue to operate illegally and perpetuate their false claims in plain sight – so consumers have little to no protection.

Many producers of products containing CBD are making unfounded medical claims regarding their products' ability to cure or alleviate many diseases and conditions.

<https://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2019/05/unapproved-cbd-products-may-not-be-as-safe-as-they-seem.html>



And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (KJV)

PLAN TO SCHEDULE A “FORGOTTEN COMMAND” CONFERENCE IN 2020...

Christ’s call to become His followers carries with it three assignments – THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS (to love God and love others), THE GREAT COMMISSION (to make disciples) and THE GREAT CALLING (the often “forgotten command” to be salt & light). To neglect any one of these is to fail to follow Christ completely. ALCAP is currently offering a series of messages built around this theme of “THE FORGOTTEN COMMAND” in which we look at each of these assignments from our Lord Jesus and show how they are all intertwined in the purpose and mission of Christ’s Church. The messages can be presented in a one or two-day conference setting, or a revival setting over the course of several days in which a couple of messages can be added that deal with current issues facing our culture today (homosexuality, alcohol and other drugs, gambling, etc.)

To schedule a conference or series of messages, feel free to contact me at jgodfrey@alcap.com or call our ALCAP and American Character Builders office at **205.985.9062**.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE ALCAP & AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS STAFF!

As we close out 2019 and prepare for 2020, ALCAP and American Character Builders are grateful for your continued prayers and financial support. Like many ministries, ALCAP and American Character Builders are facing financial challenges. Please consider a year-end contribution to help us begin the new year on a good foundation. We have sought to be good stewards of the gifts you have given in the past, and we will continue to do our best to accomplish as much as we can with limited resources, but we need your help. If you are an individual who would like to contribute, make your checks payable to *American Character Builders* in order to get a tax deduction. If you represent a church, we request that you make your checks payable to *ALCAP*. You may also visit our websites (www.ALCAP.com and www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org) to make contributions online. You may also consider including American Character Builders in your estate planning. Contact our office to discuss this option.