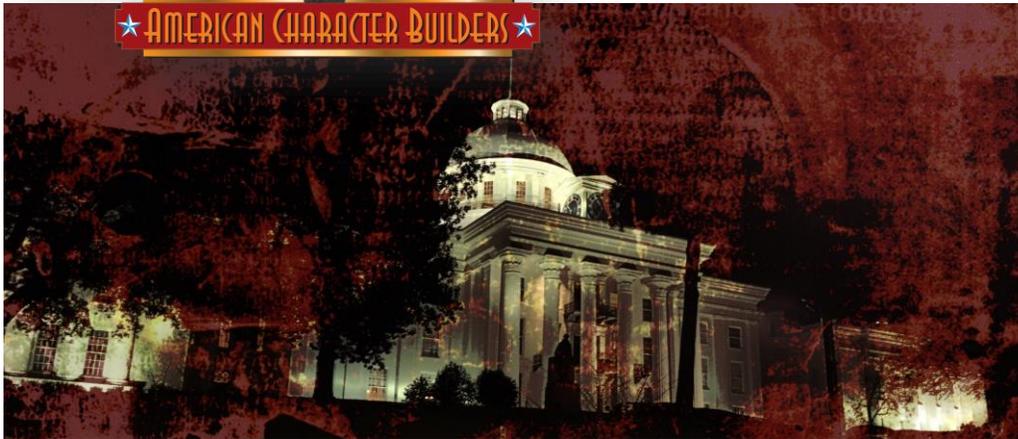


★ AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS ★



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

2 Thessalonians 3:13  
(NKJV)

## 2018 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature was abbreviated and relatively quiet – but, a few important decisions were made

MONTGOMERY, AL— As they began the 2018 Regular session of the Alabama Legislature leaders indicated that they wanted a short session with no controversial bills, and that is basically what happened. Of course, what Senate and House leaders think are “non-controversial bills” and what ALCAP views as “non-controversial” are not always in sync. ALCAP monitored 132 bills during the Session, opposed 47 bills, supported 17 bills and followed 68 other bills with interest (see a breakdown and chart on page 4 for details).

Several local alcohol-related bills were introduced and passed, most giving local counties or municipalities the ability to decide on Sunday alcohol sales. Several local bills allowed county commissions or city councils to begin Sunday alcohol sales at 10AM (called “brunch bills”) without a vote of the people. ALCAP opposed these bills,

but it is difficult to stop local bills from passing unless local citizens get involved.

There were several gambling bills introduced, but only two garnered any attention from legislators. Senate Bill (SB)325 and SB326, both sponsored by Sen. Paul Sanford (who is not running for re-election) passed out of the Senate Tourism and Marketing Committee, chaired by Senate President Pro Tem, Del Marsh. SB326 was a lottery bill that would have allowed Alabama to participate in the interstate, “Mega-“ and “Powerball” lotteries only. That bill passed out of committee, but the chairman, Sen. Marsh, voted against the bill, so the sponsor acknowledged to the media after the meeting that he did not expect it to come to the floor for a vote. It did not.

SB325, a bill that would legalize Daily Fantasy Sports in Alabama,

did come to the floor of the Senate, but in a procedural vote the bill “went down in flames” and was not placed on the calendar again during the last few days of the Session.

ALCAP warned senators that the bill may be unconstitutional since Daily Fantasy Sports would likely be ruled Class III gambling (as it is in other states). To legalize Class III gambling in Alabama requires a constitutional amendment voted on by the people, but SB325 only required the signature of the Governor.

The makeup of the 2019 Legislature will be very different, since many are not running for re-election and “Big Alcohol” and gambling advocates will be donating a lot of money to various campaigns. Voters need to vet the candidates and elect individuals who will oppose gambling or alcohol expansion.

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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.



## American Character Builders News

***Unique opportunity to help a "sister" ministry and American Character Builders at the same time!***

BIRMINGHAM, AL— In 2010, when the ALCAP Board of Directors split the ministry into two distinct organizations, ALCAP became a 501c4 organization and the 501c3 organization that had been ALCAP changed its name to American Character Builders (the new name of the old "ALCAP School Program"). When that change was made, the 501c3 organization (now called American Character Builders) remained the "owner" of the office building (technically speaking) and ALCAP began paying rent to American Character Builders.

In December 2017, a new tenant began renting temporary office space from American Character Builders, as well. The Apologetics Resource Center (ARC), under the leadership of Rev. Clete Hux, agreed to pay rent to American Character Builders and started using two empty offices, while storing their vast library in the basement. The understanding by both parties was that funds would be raised in order to finish the basement space and put in a new entrance on the lower level for ARC as soon as possible.

To date, American Character Builders has raised about \$6000 and ARC has raised about \$9-10K. Estimates place the renovation at about \$35K, so an additional \$20K is needed. ARC received a commitment of \$10K in matching funds, so if our two organizations can raise \$10K above what had already been raised before the "matching" offer was made, that will translate into \$20K and we will have enough money to complete the project.

We need continued support for ALCAP's and American Character Builders' basic budget needs, but if you or your church would like to contribute to this special building project, you will benefit three non-profit ministries at once! You will help ARC to have much needed office and library space; and, since ARC will pay rent to American Character Builders, you will benefit this ministry's on-going monthly expenses, too. It's a "win-win!"

To make a special, one-time gift to the building fund, contact Cheryl Corley or Sharon Cook in our office.

**ALCAP's legal advisor, Eric Johnston, wrote the following explanation concerning changes to the law with regards to church day cares after passage of HB76 during the 2018 Legislative Session:**

The 1981 exemption of church daycare ministries already required a number of things of churches. These included that parents sign an affidavit recognizing the church is not regulated or licensed by the state. The church files an annual certification that it is operating as a church operated daycare and in compliance with the exemption law. It provides certain information to parents like child staff ratio, discipline policies, type of curriculum used and religious teachings. Later, laws required background checks to be done for employees of church daycares. There has been a misconception by many who opposed these changes, as well as by the media, that background checks were not previously required. They were. Following are the changes to the law:

- The definition for daycares now includes "preschools." That does not create another class of daycares to be regulated. It is another name for a pre-K or K program.
- The word "elementary" was removed as an adjective modifying a religious nonprofit school. That limited exemption for some religious nonprofit schools that would not be classified as "elementary." This expanded the definition of who could be an exempt daycare.
- If a church receives federal or state funds, it is not exempt from licensure. This federal money flows through the state. It is often hard to distinguish between which is which. However, the deciding factor is whether the school accepts those funds. Many believe that funds indirectly received by a church for a foster daycare child, for example, would make the ministry subject to licensure. This is doubtful, but if DHR did insist, the simple way to avoid that would be to scholarship the foster care child.
- Fire and health inspections are already required throughout the state and done by local authorities. The law is clarified that these will be done annually, and copies of the inspection reports will be given to DHR. If a church gets an update to a fire, health or criminal background report, it reports it to DHR within 30 days. This is good policy and is something that should be followed in any event.
- Property, casualty and liability insurance is now required of churches which operate daycares. This is new but is desirable to protect not only the church from lawsuits, but to provide remedies to persons who are injured.
- A statement must be posted at the church daycare that the daycare is not regulated or licensed by the state. This is wise to do in order to minimize liability or misunderstanding with parents.
- If a church plans to open a new exempt daycare ministry and has not had one in the past, it must give DHR 30 days' notice in advance. DHR will visit and determine if it is in compliance with the exemption. Compliance is merely that it is a church and has set up a program in compliance with the law, most of which is being itemized in these bullet points.
- DHR may inspect a church daycare at any time if it believes the church is not operating as an exempt ministry or if it has notice that the safety of a child is at risk. These powers already existed.
- Some churches may wish to accept licensure, particularly if they want the federal funds. The "Minimum Standards" (DHR regulations) have physical structural requirements for the operation of a daycare. Some churches may not meet those requirements, such as the size of rooms, number of toilets, *etcetera*. Those churches would be grandfathered into licensure without making those expensive changes.
- Churches which operate daycare ministries will not notice much change in what they have done in the past. There will be burdens on local fire and health departments to do their jobs. We believe the changes will not work problems for churches and their daycare ministries will continue to operate as in the past.

**It's time to rethink how much booze may be too much: Researchers are changing how they study the risks of alcohol — and it's making drinking look worse. (by Julia Belluz at Vox.com)**

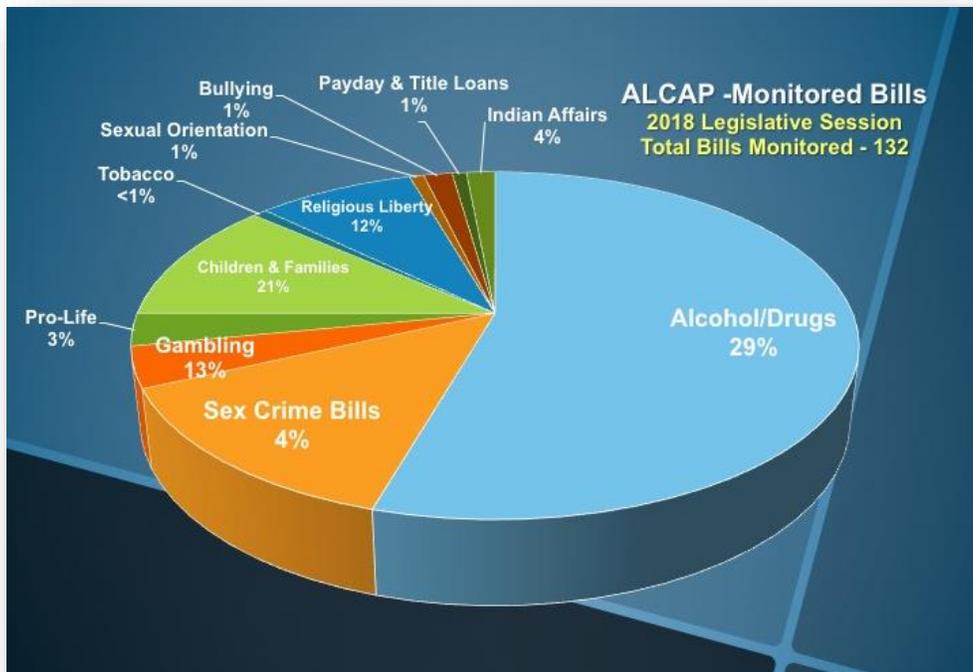
A couple of drinks a day aren't bad for you and may even be good for you. Right?

That's been the message — from researchers, governments, and beverage companies — for decades.

But maybe we should [rethink that message]. Because it turns out the story about the health effects of moderate drinking is shifting pretty dramatically. New research on alcohol and mortality, and a growing awareness about the rise in alcohol-related deaths in the US, is causing a reckoning among researchers about even moderate levels of alcohol consumption.

In particular, an impressive new meta-study involving 600,000 participants, published recently in *The Lancet*, suggests that levels of alcohol previously thought to be relatively harmless are linked with an earlier death. What's more, drinking small amounts of alcohol may not carry all the long-touted protective effects on the cardiovascular system.

-(<https://www.vox.com/2018/4/24/17242720/alcohol-health-risks-facts>)



<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

**Matthew 5:13–16  
(NKJV)**

## OPIOID CRISIS UPDATE

American Character Builders is nearing completion of a new video (which can be used as a discussion-starter), evidence-based talking points and discussion questions for use in public schools, and Bible study materials, as well as sermon outlines, for pastors and churches to use – all of which will be downloadable from our American Character Builders website for free ([www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org](http://www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org)). Meanwhile, ALCAP is continuing to work with state and national leaders to develop resources to help pastors and church leaders who are often the first responders to families being impacted by opioids and other drugs. We hope to have a list of links and PDF documents available on our ALCAP website soon. Pastors and church leaders will be able to immediately find resources to benefit families and individuals who come to the local church for help and answers.

## THERE IS STILL TIME TO SCHEDULE A “FORGOTTEN COMMAND” CONFERENCE IN 2018...

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](mailto:jgodfrey@alcap.com) or call our ALCAP and American Character Builders office at **205.985.9062**.