

Gambling & the Lottery

INTRODUCTION:

A. Brethren, where did sin go?

1. We live in an age that refuses to recognize sin for what it really is.
2. We refuse to call that which is sin, sinful . . . evil . . . wrong.
3. Friends, when the abhorrence of sin is minimized, the seduction of sin is maximized. (Repeat)
 - a. Consider homosexuality:
 1. Homosexuals are called:
 - a. "Gay"
 - b. "Same -sex couples"
 2. It is said they have an "alternate life-style."
 - b. Drunks are no longer called "drunks" but "alcoholics."
 - c. Adultery is called:
 1. "Playing around."
 2. Having an "affair."
 - d. Liars are no longer called liars but those who:
 1. "Exaggerate."
 2. "Shade the truth."
 - e. A harlot or whore is now called:
 1. "A lady of the evening."
 2. "Social providers of companionship."
 3. "A Madam"
 - f. Greed is praised as "aggressive business."
 - g. The list could go on.
4. Jesus never minced words in condemning sin or sinners.
 - a. In Matthew 23, Jesus did not use an euphemisms in describing and condemning the Pharisees.
 - b. Jesus identified them for what they were:
 1. Liars
 2. Hypocrites
 3. Blind guides
 4. Fools
 - c. Many today would cringe at such preaching.
 1. That was the preaching of our Lord against sin.
 2. Jesus did not take sin or sinner lightly.
 3. Sin was going to cost Jesus His life . . . if was a serious matter for Him.

B. As we study the subject, Gambling & the Lottery," I want to call your attention to a number of Biblical principles involved in answering the matter.

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:22** - "Abstain from every form of evil."
2. **Isaiah 5:20** - "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"
3. **Malachi 2:17** - "You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, In what way have we wearied Him? In that you say, Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD..."
4. **Luke 16:15** - "And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."
5. **2 Timothy 3:1-4** - "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
 Unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,
 Traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

C. Sin is real . . . very real . . . and sin will condemn and destroy.

1. Why do you need to know that as we enter a study of Gambling & the Lottery?
2. You need to know that because the lottery is a form of gambling, and gambling in all its forms is wrong.

D. What is gambling?

1. According to Webster's Third New International Dictionary, gambling is "The act or practice of betting: the act of playing a game and consciously risking money or other stakes on its outcome."
2. Gambling is risking money on the result of a game with the desire of winning more money.

D. Part of the problem some people have, yea, even some of our brethren, is misunderstanding the difference between taking a gamble and taking a risk.

1. There are those who say, "Life is a gamble." But that is wrong. Life is a risk, not a gamble. In **Acts 5:26**, we read about "men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
2. Friends, the difference between gambling and taking a risk is this:
Gambling leaves everything to chance, while risk-taking does everything to minimize chance.
3. Gambling is predicated on one fact. For every winner there must be a loser.
4. Taking a risk is predicated on the fact that everybody can be a winner.
 - a. When you invest in the stock market, you want that business to succeed so you can succeed.

- b. When the business makes money, you make money. In Gambling, it is not that way . . . for every winner there must be a loser.
- 5. In gambling nothing is produced.
 - a. It is simply getting good to change hands from the possession of one person to another.
 - b. On the other hand, when you invest in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or business, etc., that money goes to:
 - 1. Build factories. . . .
 - 2. Build plants. . . .
 - 3. Create goods.
 - 4. Pay wages
 - 5. Put paychecks in people's hands.
 - 6. Put food on people's tables.
 - c. As someone has well said, "In gambling you simply have one person who gets some for nothing, and another person who gets nothing for something."
- 6. So whether you are buying a lottery ticket, playing poker, matching for cokes, or betting on a football game, in our study of this subject, I want to share with you a number of things that are wrong with gambling in any form. That will come later in our study.
- E. Gambling is not a new problem by any means.
 - 1. The Greeks in Homer's time had knucklebones from sheep and goats that were marked to serve as dice.
 - 2. A gambling board was discovered in Crete that dates back to 1800-1900 B.C.
 - 3. In Babylon, headless arrows were used for making wagers.
 - 4. Tertullian said, "If you say that you are a Christian when you are a dice player, you say what you are not."

WHAT PAYOFF CAN YOUR EXPECT FROM GAMBLING?

When people gamble they do so expecting a payoff or a pay out. They do so expecting to win something more that what it cost them to gamble in the first place. Permit me to share with you seven payoffs that come from gambling.

A. THE PAYOFF OF ADDICTION

- 1. When gambling expands, so does the number of gambling addicts. It is estimated that close to 10 million Americans now have a gambling habit that is out of control . . . and the number is growing daily.
- 2. According to University of Illinois professor, John Kindt, the number of compulsive gamblers will increase between 100 and 550 percent when gambling is brought into an area.

3. In Iowa, the number of individuals with serious gambling problems tripled after casinos were introduced.
4. Earl Grinols, a University of Illinois economist has said that casinos earn more than half their revenues from problem and pathological gamblers.
5. Another university professor has found that the average gambling addict in treatment ranges between \$18,000 and \$50,000.
6. According to the National Council of Problem Gambling, 20% of compulsive gamblers attempt suicide.
7. The payoff of addiction is one of the payoffs of gambling.

B. THE PAYOFF OF FAMILY DEVASTATION

1. Gambling has proven to be a devastating adversary to an already struggling American family.
 - a. Thousands of families have been destroyed by gambling addictions.
 - b. Thousands more are in a state of crisis.
2. Harrison County, Mississippi, has averaged 500 more divorces per year since casinos arrived.
3. A 1995 survey of compulsive gamblers in the state of Illinois found that 26% were divorced or separated due to gambling problems.
4. According to a 1995 report from Maryland's attorney general, domestic violence and child abuse increase dramatically when gambling comes into an area.
5. The Gulf Coast Women's Center in Biloxi, Mississippi, has received an average of 400 more crisis calls per month since gambling arrived. Central City, Colorado, experienced a sixfold rise in child protection cases the year after casinos arrived.

According to the National Council on Gambling, children of compulsive gamblers:

 - a. Do worse in school than their peers.
 - b. Are more likely to engage in substance abuse.
 - c. Are more susceptible to gambling and eating disorder.
 - d. Are more prone to depression.
6. The payoff of family devastation is one of the payoffs of gambling.
7. Central City, Colorado, experienced a six-fold rise in child protection cases the year after casinos arrived.
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C. THE PAYOFF OF ADOLESCENT ADDICTS

1. Adolescents may be the biggest victims of America's gambling obsession. Despite age restrictions, teens are able to access legalized gambling with regularity . . . and in doing so, they pay a heavy price. Can you say, "internet?"
2. According to Howard Shaffer of Harvard Medical School, roughly 6% of American adolescents (more than one million) are already addicted to gambling.
3. 1 in 6 teens experience gambling-related problems.
4. Within the past three weeks a CBS program (The Guardian) dealt with a young school age boy who admitted that he was in trouble with a \$6,000 gambling debt.
5. In a journal article entitled, *Estimating the Prevalence of Adolescent Gambling Disorders*, the two authors established that least three-quarters of high school seniors gamble.
6. In 1995, University of Minnesota researchers discovered that more than half of underage Minnesota youth surveyed had participated in legal gambling activities.
7. Teens are three times as likely as adults to become addicted to gambling once exposed to it.
8. At least 1 in 10 teens engage in illegal activity (stealing, shoplifting, selling drugs, or prostitution) in order to finance their gambling.
9. The payoff of adolescent addicts one of the payoffs of gambling.

D. THE PAYOFF OF CRIME

1. Crime and gambling are inseparable partners, as communities with gambling can readily attest.
2. According to a 1996 U. S. *News & World Report* analysis, the crime rate in gambling is nearly double the national average.
3. Three years after casinos arrived, Atlantic City went from 50th to 1st in the nation in per-capita crime.
4. Half of Louisiana district attorneys surveyed in 1995 cite gambling as a factor in rising crime rates in their jurisdictions.
5. According to the Maryland attorney general, organized crime has infiltrated a number of legal gambling operations.
6. According to Valerie Lorenz, director of the Compulsive Gambling Center in Baltimore, at least two-thirds of compulsive gamblers turn to crime to finance their addiction.
7. The payoff of crime is one of the payoffs of gambling.

E. THE PAYOFF OF POVERTY

1. Legalized gambling makes poor people poorer. It also adds individuals and families to the poverty rolls.
2. Studies show that the poor lose the greatest share of their income to gambling.
3. A 1995 study of casino gamblers in Wisconsin found that half had household incomes below \$30,000.
4. Those with incomes below \$10,000 comprise 7 percent of Illinois riverboat gamblers. They report median gambling losses of \$1,900 annually.
5. One article of compulsive gambling reported that the poor and minorities are more prone to gambling problems.
6. The *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* reported that more than 1,000 Minnesotans file for bankruptcy annually due to gambling losses.
7. The *Detroit News* reports that gambling-related bankruptcies in metro Detroit have increased up to 40-fold since the opening of a large casino in neighboring Windsor, Ontario.
8. The payoff of poverty is one of the payoffs of gambling.

F. THE PAYOFF OF ECONOMIC MIRAGE Mirage: Something that appears to be real but isn't.

1. The gambling industry's mantra of jobs, economic development and tourism is an enticing one . . . but it is a false one. Gambling has failed to live up to its lofty promises time and time again.
2. Earl Grinols found that the introduction of casino riverboats in Illinois did not create additional jobs; they merely took jobs away from existing industries.
3. A *U.S. News & World Report* article stated that counties that added casinos in the early 1990s have experienced no additional growth in new business.
4. Gambling's ability as a tourist draw has been vastly overstated. Surveys in two northern states and elsewhere show that gambling entrepreneurs make most of their profits for residents, not tourists.
5. Erik Calonius, in a *Fortune* magazine article entitled, "The Big Payoff From Lotteries," notes though gambling is often sold as a revenue boom to education, it has frequently failed to deliver. Often state legislatures simply redirect funds, resulting in no new benefit for education.
6. Each problem gambler costs society an estimated \$13,000 to \$52,000 per year.
7. John Kindt, in speaking before a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Small Business, calculated that for every \$1.00 the state receives in gambling revenues, it costs the state at least \$3.00 in increased criminal-justice, social welfare, and other expenses.
8. The payoff of economic mirage is one of the payoffs of gambling.

G. THE PAYOFF OF GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION

1. The gambling industry exerts tremendous influence in places where it has established itself. Gambling-related scandals have erupted in many states.
2. According to Robert Goodman, author of U.S. Gambling Study, the gambling industry has become the single most powerful lobby in many states.
3. In one of our northern states (Illinois), gambling lobbyists include:
 - A former governor.
 - A former attorney general.
 - Two former U.S. attorneys.
 - A former director of state police.
 - A prominent former judge.
 - A former mayor of Chicago.
 - Seven former legislators.
4. Over the years, dozens of elected officials in Louisiana, Missouri, South Carolina, Arizona, Kentucky, and West Virginia have been convicted or forced out of office on charges of gambling-related corruption.
5. The payoff of government corruption is one of the payoffs of gambling.

DO “RELIGIOUS” PEOPLE BECOME INVOLVED IN GAMBLING?

- A. Why people even try to bring God into the lottery. Consider Marvin and Emily Davidheiser of Bradenton, Florida. USA Today reported that the couple stacked forty Lotto tickets atop a Bible one August 6th, turned on the TV, and prayed. Shortly after than the couple claimed their \$26 million dollar prize, then the 13th largest in the United States. Mrs. Davidheiser said, “I’d advise everybody to say your prayers. You don’t win it just on picking the numbers.” They sorted through the whole stack of 40 tickets, but the winning ticket “was the last ticket I read, next to the Bible,” he said.”
- B. Pollsters tell us:
 1. 8 out of 10 Roman Catholics classify themselves as gamblers.
 2. Gambling among Jews is 77%.
 3. Gambling among Presbyterians and Episcopalians tie at 74%.
 4. 63% of Methodists admit to gambling tendencies.
 5. 43% of Baptists surveyed say they gamble.
 6. 33% of the members of nondenominational groups, including the traditionally conservative churches, admit they do a little betting now and then.
- C. Among churches of Christ the percentage would probably in the range of those termed “conservative,” some 33%.
- D. Brethren, I am not so naive to imagine or believe that everyone in the church is opposed to gambling and especially to the lottery.

- E. Whether it's betting at the race track, bingo, pulling a slot machine lever, rolling the dice, shuffling the poker cards, or buying a lottery ticket, gambling has become the national craving of many.
1. Today some 80% of all Americans gamble, and in a Gallup poll it was discovered that 80% of Americans approve of gambling, and 82% said they would approve of some form of legalized gambling if it would help their state raise revenue.
 2. The biggest single business in the United States is gambling. Gambling takes in more profit than all of the one hundred largest corporations in our country combined.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE LOTTERY

- A. It seems so harmless, buying a lottery ticket . . . playing a harmless game or poker . . . taking your chance down at the track , , , betting in the office pool, etc.. If it were left to many, America would become just one gigantic crap table.
- B. George Washington, the father of our country, said, "Gambling is the child of avarice, the brother of iniquity, and the father of mischief." I must also tell you that in one place I read that Mr. Washington kept a precise ledger on his winnings and losses.
- C. Concerning lotteries, the word "lottery" is believed to have come from the Italian word "lotto", meaning destiny or fate.
1. Scholars disagree on who started that ancient tradition of gambling lotteries.
 2. Forms of Lotteries date back to Caesar in 100-44 B.C.
 3. 100 B.C. - The Hun dynasty in China created lotteries, the funds of which were used for defense, primarily to finance the Great Wall of China.
 4. 1567 – Queen Elizabeth I established the first English state lottery. 400,00 tickets were offered for sale.
 5. 1700s – Many of our founding fathers played and sponsored lotteries. Among them were Benjamin Franklin, who used lotteries to finance cannons for the Revolutionary War, John Hancock, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson.
 6. 1775 – Lotteries were authorized to raise money for the Colonial army.
 7. 1790 to the Civil War: 50 colleges, 300 schools, and 200 churches were erected with lottery proceeds. Most notably, universities such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Columbia were funded by lotteries.
 8. 1964 – New Hampshire became the first state to create a state lottery.
 9. 1967 – New York became the second state to attempt a lottery.
And the rest is history with 38 of our 50 United States having some form of a state lottery, and a number the remaining states without a lottery are contemplating one.

D. The South Carolina Education Lottery.

1. Gambling, including the “State Education Lottery,” is rapidly gaining wider acceptance here in our home state of South Carolina.
2. In 1998, the Republican incumbent governor, David Beasley, was defeated by his Democratic opponent, Jim Hodges.
3. Mr. Hodges’ proposal for a state-run education lottery was one of the hottest campaign issues in the history of the Palmetto state.
4. Even though it meant having to change state law, the fight was on. Mr. Hodges won the election.
5. The proposal to change the state’s constitution to eliminate a ban on lotteries was put before the voters on the November 8, 2000 ballot.
 - a. 55% of those who voted said yes, and the change was made when Title 59, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, was amended.
 - b. The selfsame night that the election results came in, Kevin Geddings, who ran Governor Hodges lottery campaign, said: “I think it’s a great night for South Carolina.”
 - c. Brethren, on that night, another wrong . . . another evil . . . another sin was “legalized Last month January, 2002), the South Carolina Education lottery went into effect. It is projected that by the end of this month (February, 2002), that over one hundred million dollars will have been waged on the South Carolina Lottery.

E. In the latter part of the last century and in the early part of this one, we have seen a dramatic increase in the availability of gambling.

1. In states large and small . . . in communities large and mall . . . gambling is on the rise.
2. The latest list of I examined of states without . . I repeat, without a lottery was . . . down to 11.

a. Alabama	e. Mississippi	i. Oklahoma
b. Alaska	f. Nevada	j. Utah
c. Arkansas	g. North Carolina	k. Wyoming
d. Hawaii	h. North Dakota	
3. Efforts have been put forth in many of these states to establish a lottery.
4. In fact, the year before the South Carolina lottery was adopted, voters in Alabama rejected a lottery with a 54% to 46% vote.

F. Brethren, now that the lottery is here, my concern is that some of my brethren will embrace it, seeing nothing wrong with.

1. The lottery is gambling, and gambling is wrong.
2. To that end this study has been prepared and is being sent forth.
3. As the dollar signs have grown larger and larger, so has gambling’s acceptance.

4. In places where gambling is illegal, people get around the “letter of the law” by calling it “gaming.” They overlook the fact that if:

It walks like a duck,
Wobbles like a duck,
Has feathers like a duck,
Swims like a duck,
Quacks like a duck
And looks like a duck,
Friends . . . IT' IS A DUCK!

5. Calling an elephant a giraffe does not make the elephant a giraffe anymore than calling gambling “gaming” so it would be gambling. “A rose by any other name is . . . still a rose.

G. Many Christians contend that since the Bible does not explicitly address the issue of gambling and thereby conclude that there is nothing wrong with it.

1. On the contrary, there are many principles found in the Word of God that show that if you enter into the activity of gambling, the odds are against you spiritually.
2. Before I have completed our study of this subject, I plan to show you that gambling affects:
 - a. Our view of God.
 - b. Our view of others.
 - c. Our view of ourselves.
3. I plan to demonstrate to each one present that gambling is to be avoided:
 - a. At all costs.
 - b. At all times.
 - c. And by all people.

G. Friends, hear me . . . “There is never a right way to do a wrong thing.”
Gambling is wrong!

1. Playing the lottery is gambling and therefore playing the lottery is wrong!
2. Someone may be anxious to make the argument that the lottery is not so bad because it is for education. If taking something that wrong and using it for education makes it right, then why not:
 - a. Have a prostitution lottery where a portion of the proceeds goes toward education. Would that make prostitution right?
 - b. Why not have a drug lottery where a portion of the proceeds goes toward education. Would that make illicit drugs okay? Would that lessen the harmful affects it has in the lives and on the bodies of countless numbers of its victims better know as addicts.
 - c. Why not have a thievery lottery where a substantial amount of the proceeds stolen, when sold, be given to fund education. Would that change God’s mind on stealing?
3. Again I repeat, there is never a right way to do a wrong thing.

- a. If a thing is wrong to begin with, you can legislate laws for it, you can get them passed, you can require licensing, you can tax it, and you can even legislate where it can and cannot be done, and you can legislate who can and who cannot participate in it, and after all is said and one . . . if it was biblically wrong before you began, it will just as Biblically wrong when you legalize it in the eyes of men!
 - b. In South Carolina there was law on the books that said a lottery would be illegal. After the vote, the law was changed to say a lottery was legal. Friends you may get away with that in the South Carolina legislature, but:
 1. No vote changes God's law.
 2. No vote changes God's will.
 3. No vote can change the true color of a leopard's spots or a zebra's stripes.
 4. The Bible still warns: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" **Isaiah 5:20**
 - a. In 1976 a lottery was called evil. In 2000 it was called good.
 - b. In 1976 a lottery was called darkness, In 2000 it was called light.
 - c. In 1976 a lottery was called bitter. In 2000 it was called sweet.
- H. So whether you are buying a lottery ticket, playing poker, matching for cokes, or betting on a football game, let me share with you a number of things that are wrong with gambling in any form. But first let me establish:
1. There is no verse in the Bible that says, "Thou shall not gamble."
 2. The Bible is a book of principles, and gambling violates several Biblical principles.

WHY GAMBLING AND THE LOTTERY ARE WRONG

A. In order to gamble, certain Biblical principles have to collapsed or compromised.

1. The principle of HONESTY.

- a. Two of the Ten Commandments tell us that we should neither steal something that rightfully belongs to someone else, nor even in spirit to covet that which belongs to someone else.
- b. The Bible teaches that anything that comes into our possession should come in one of four ways.
 1. We buy it.
 2. We make an honorable trade for it.
 3. We inherit it.
 4. It is give to us as a gift.
- c. When two people gamble, they are simply stealing by mutual consent.

1. They are both agreeing to become thieves.
 - a. One will become a successful thief, getting what belongs to the other in return.
 - b. The other will become an unsuccessful thief, losing without getting anything in return.
2. Someone has said, "He who gambles and wins is a thief. While he who gambles and loses is a fool."
3. Gambling is legalized thievery. Money is taken from you just as sure as if a thief had held a gun on you and robbed you. The difference is one is by your consent and the other one isn't.

2. **The principle of LOVE.**

Gambling violates the golden rule" "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 7:12

- a. You do not want someone to take your money, but you are willing to take theirs.
- b. In gambling you want to be the one who wins.
 1. In the lottery you want to be the one who wins.
 2. In either case you want to take some else's money, but you do not want someone else to take your money.
- c. Do you understand that the only way you can win at gambling is if somebody else loses.
- d. If you win money in the South Carolina Education Lottery, you are winning what someone else is losing.
- e. And when you try to justify that the lottery is okay because it is for education, then let me ask you this.
 1. If you buy and \$2.00 ticket and win \$10,000, will you keep the \$10,000? If so you have given "education" \$2.00 and "education has given you a \$9.998.00 profit. No wonder our schools are in trouble.
 2. Someone may argue, "but I am not taking \$10,000 for education." If not you are taking money from others who have lost it in the lottery long before it ever got a chance to be used for education. The lottery is gambling regardless of how much glitter you try to cover it up with to the contrary.
 3. "But it is for education." If you win are you going to give the money back . . . to education?
 4. In SC, chances of winning are 1 in 5. How many winners have given their winnings back to help education? In gambling a person is in it for what they can get, and keep.

3. **The principle of WORK.**

- a. The principle of work and the ethic of work have been enduring Biblical principles from the beginning of time.

1. **2 Thessalonians 3:10** - “ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”
2. **Ephesians 4:28** - “. . . but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”

- b. When the government promotes gambling, it is giving approval to the principle of pursuing wealth without work.
- c. For over 200 years the American idea has been that citizens are distinguished more by the moral worth of the way they make money, than by how much money they make.
- d. How you make your money is more important to God than how much money you make.

B. When gambling is present, problems are created.

1. We have already mentioned numerous statistics indicating that gambling is simply another cancer that is eating away at the moral foundation of this nation.
 - a. Paul Oakes, an outspoken critic of lotteries, said “The chief source of funds in organized crime has always been gambling. Drugs aren’t even close to gambling. Gambling is more important to the NFL than television.” Gambling creates problems.
 - b. According to the United States Commission on Law Enforcement, “Law officials agree almost unanimously that gambling is the greatest source of revenue for organized crime.” Gambling creates problems.
 - c. Nevada, considered the gambling capital of the nation, has a per capita crime rate double, and a suicide rate tripe the national average. Gambling creates problems.
 - d. According to the FBI, the per capita crime rate is twice as high in states that have legalized gambling as those states which do not have it. Gambling creates problems.
 - e. Legalizing gambling in order to tax it for state revenues does not eliminate illegal gambling. In fact, the organized crime section of the Department of Justice, has found that “the rate of illegal gambling in those states which have some legalized form of gambling, was three times as high as those states where there was not a legalized form of gambling.”
 - f. You remember the TV commentator, Jimmy the Greek. He said, “I am not a gambler. I used to be, but I gave it up years ago. I’M not a bookmaker either. I don’t make bets, and I don’t take them. Wherever I go, I speak against gambling. Wherever you initiate gambling in a community, it inevitably ruins it.”
 - g. Gambling robs the poor.

1. Just under 33% of the people who play the lottery, are at or below poverty level.
2. The leading lottery states are the leading welfare states.
3. Washington, D.C. is the leading lottery welfare district.
- h. Gambling, especially in the form of the lottery, is a modern-day Robin Hood in reverse . . .
It robs from the poor and gives to the rich.
- i. The fact is, the people who can afford to gamble don't need the money, and the people who need the money can't afford to gamble..
- j. Few people who purchase a lottery ticket as placing a bet, but that is exactly what they are doing. They are betting that their ticket will be the winning ticket.
- k. Some children in South Carolina will go hungry this week because their daddy bet their food money on the lottery.

2. Gambling ruins the family.

- a. There is an organization for compulsive gamblers called "Gamblers Anonymous."
 1. Did you know that 1 out of every 20 people who gamble will become a compulsive gambler.
 2. Did you know that 1 out of every 10 people who play the lottery will become compulsive gamblers.
 3. If gambling cannot easily result in compulsive gambling, then why only one month into the South Carolina Education Lottery are officials using large sums of money through the State to warn people:
 - a. "Play responsibly."
 - b. "You should never HAVE to buy a lottery ticket."
 - c. "Winning the lottery will not change your life."
 4. Sounds like some of the same jargon used to tell people to "drink responsibly."

C. Gambling is monetarily deceptive.

1. One of the biggest arguments for the Lottery of the revenue is that it will bring much needed revenue for schools. In other states hospitals and others things are targeted.
 - a. H. Roy Kaplin of the Florida Institute of Technology, spent sixteen years studying lotteries, and he had said this: "A lottery is an inefficient and ineffective source of revenue. It raises 3% of a state's source of revenue, but a more predictable source of income would be a j percent increase in the sales tax.
 - b. Michigan State University economist, Ronald Fischer, said: "Claims that this is a financial panacea are simply wrong."
 1. For the twenty-two states with lotteries in 1986, revenue from ticket sales averaged 1.9 cents for every dollar of state revenue.

2. By comparison:
 - a. Sales tax generated 29 cents of each dollar.
 - b. Federal aid an additional 24 cents.
 - c. Income taxes 22 cents.
- c. Herbert Jenkins, former president of the International Police Chiefs, said” For every dollar received in gambling taxes, government spend ten dollars fighting problems directly related to legalized gambling . . . prostitution . . . embezzlement . . . bad checks . . . and police corruption. Racketeers and mobsters swarm to gambling communities and bring with them other sordid businesses.”
- d. Looking specifically at the lottery, the government on average spends five cents to collect a tax dollar, but it has to spend sixty cents to secure a lottery dollar. Lotteries are not only ineffective, they are inefficient as well. Many are blind when it comes to the odds of winning. If fact:
 1. The chances of seeing a no-hitter are one in 1,347.
 2. The chances of finding a pear in an oyster is one in 10,000.
 3. The chances of being dealt a royal flush in five card stud is one in 649,739.
 4. The chances of having quadruplets are one in 705,000.
 5. The chances of being struck by lightning is one in 1,900,000.
 6. Here is it now, the chances of winning the lottery is one in 12,913,583.
3. The Math Department at Berry College has said that the odds against winning the Lottery with any one lottery ticket are 7.25 billion to one.
4. To be blunt, gambling is not only deceptive, it is just plain stupid.
 - a. The race track is the only place I know where the windows clean the people.
 - b. Someone has well said that “horse sense is what keeps horses from betting on what people will do.”
 - c. There are those who say that gambling helps education. One man said, “I’m beginning to understand exactly how the State Lottery helps education. Every time I but a losing ticket i get a little smarter.”

GAMBLING VIOLATES BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES.

- A. **Philippians 4:19** - “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
 1. The Bible clearly teaches that we are to trust God and not luck for our prosperity and our needs.
 2. God never intended for man’s finances to be based on luck..
 - 3, God’s rule is simple: A good day’s wage for a good day’s work, and a good day’s work for a good day’s wage.”

- B. **Matthew 7:12** - “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”
1. You take your winning from other peoples losses.
 2. You don’t want others to win at the expense of your loosing.
- C. **1 Corinthians 4:2** - “Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”
1. Whatever we have has been bequeathed to us for a short span of time by a Gracious God on holy high.
 2. We are not to waste it or squander it.
- D. **Colossians 3:5** - “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”
1. Covetousness and greed are first cousins.
 - a. Greed is an eager desire for base gain.
 - b. Covetousness is translated from two Greek words which means “a greedy desire to have more.”
 2. **1 Timothy 6:10** - “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
 - a. If you don’t think that greed is behind gambling, including the lottery, don’ offer any type of money as the prize for winning.
 - b. Take away the money and you have taken away the appeal.
 - c. Gambling seeks:
 1. Wealth without work.
 2. Something for nothing.
 3. That which belongs to another.
 - d. Gambling demonstrates selfishness.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Friends, it is true that the word :gambling is not in the Bible.
1. Neither are the words rape, larceny, or homosexuality, but these behaviors are wrong.
 2. Because a particular word is not mentioned does not mean that action is not sinful and condemned.
 3. Some may argue that gambling is legal. Just because it is legal does not mean that it is not sinful. Private drunkenness is legal. Does this mean it is not sinful?
- B. Gambling:
1. Affects our view of God — It indicates a lack of trust in God’s ability to provided for us.
 2. Affects our view of others — It presents a poor example to others.

3. Affects our view of ourselves —
 - a. It distorts our view of stewardship.
 - b. It undermines our work ethic.
 - c. It centers around greed.
- C. There are two times in a Christian's life when he should not gamble:
 1. When he can't afford to.
 2. And when he can.
- D. **Jeremiah 22:13** - "Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness and his chambers by injustice, who uses his neighbor's service without wages.
- E. Brethren, it is sad that many Christians do not know the Bible well enough to know when Bible principles are violated.
- F. Do not gamble! Do not play the lottery!
- G. **The Plan of Salvation**