

## Gambling

*Although the subject of gambling is not specifically addressed in the Bible, we can certainly find an abundance of clear Biblical principles which address the matter of our finances and proper stewardship of those resources to which we are entrusted.*

- The lure of gambling is the *feeling* of “hope” which it produces. Hope for a better tomorrow. Hope for a tomorrow with less struggling, the relief of hard labor and liberation from work. However, throughout the Bible, we are constantly reminded that our hope is in God alone, not money, power, or position. **Look up: 1 Timothy 6:17, Romans 15:13, Matthew 6:33-34**

*My hope is built on  
nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood  
and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the  
sweetest frame,  
But wholly trust in  
Jesus' Name.*

- The fundamentally principle of gambling is that for a small "investment" a person can get a big pay off. But God designed us to work. The principle of work goes back before the “genesis” of time. Man was created in God’s image; God Himself works and finds its pleasing (2:31).

What does Gen 2:15 say about God’s design of man? **Discuss: Proverbs 6:6, Proverbs 31:14-20**

- Gambling also occurs for reasons that aren’t selfish at all. Hoping that one day a loved one and maybe even future generations will benefit from the financial win-fall created by the gamblers wise instincts, or luck of the draw is another common motivation.

*I was young and now I  
am old, yet I have never  
seen the righteous  
forsaken or their  
children begging bread.  
- Psalm 37:25*

- Is the desire to care for, and leave an inheritance for your family wrong? What is it that you would like your loved ones to inherit from you? **Discuss: 1 Timothy 5:3-8, 1 Peter 1:3,4.**

- What does the child of the unemployed factory worker benefit from more, the winnings from a game of chance, or a mother and father who cry out to the Lord on knees of prayer? As Matthew 6:24 conveys, one cannot honestly do the latter while participating in the former. **Discuss: Psalm 57:1-3, Exodus 16:4, Psalm 121:2**

- Have you ever thought: “I wish things could be just a little bit easier? If I had just a little more money I could be comfortable and happier.” **Read: 1 Timothy 6:6-10, Philippians 4:12,13, Proverbs 30:8, Ecclesiastes 5:10, Hebrews 13:5**

- Some reason that buying a lottery ticket is just a means of entertainment, costing nothing more than an extra dollar. Consider the account of Jesus feeding the five thousand in Luke 9:12-17. How can the Lord’s work benefit from an “extra dollar”? **Have you ever felt that if only you had an “extra dollar”, then you could practice James 1:27?**

- Gambling also has the very real potential to turn into an addiction, like drugs or alcohol. This addiction can destroy the stability of the family, mistrust among spouses, and cause a person to lose control of their life.

**Look up: 2 Peter 2:19, 1 Corinthians 10:13**

- Many gamblers end up having massive financial problems because such games are designed so that the odds are not in your favor. We are to watch over and take care of the money we make. We are to use it to further God's kingdom and to take care of our families.

We are instructed to make wise choices. Chancing God’s provisions away is not a wise choice. The fact is that building our hope on anything other Jesus’ righteousness is sinking sand.

*Dishonest money dwindles away,  
but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.*

*Proverbs 13:11*

*And my God will meet all your needs according  
to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:19*