

# **Gambling**

**Should a Christian Play?**

# **Why this Study? - 1**

- **Gambling is a growing activity in our wicked generation.**
- **Gambling is not preached against much any more.**
- **Gambling is growing worldwide by travel and inventions.**
- **Online gambling is being licensed for state revenues.**
- **Online gambling has existed, but now it grows faster.**

# **Why this Study? - 2**

- **Gambling online is like porn online ... more convenient.**
- **Las Vegas got started in 1931 ... Atlantic City in 1977.**
- **Indians started 1979 ... revenues now rival the big boys.**
- **Poker is being heavily promoted by ESPN ... is it a sport?!**
- **God providentially convicted me to bring this Bible study.**

# **Why this Study? - 3**

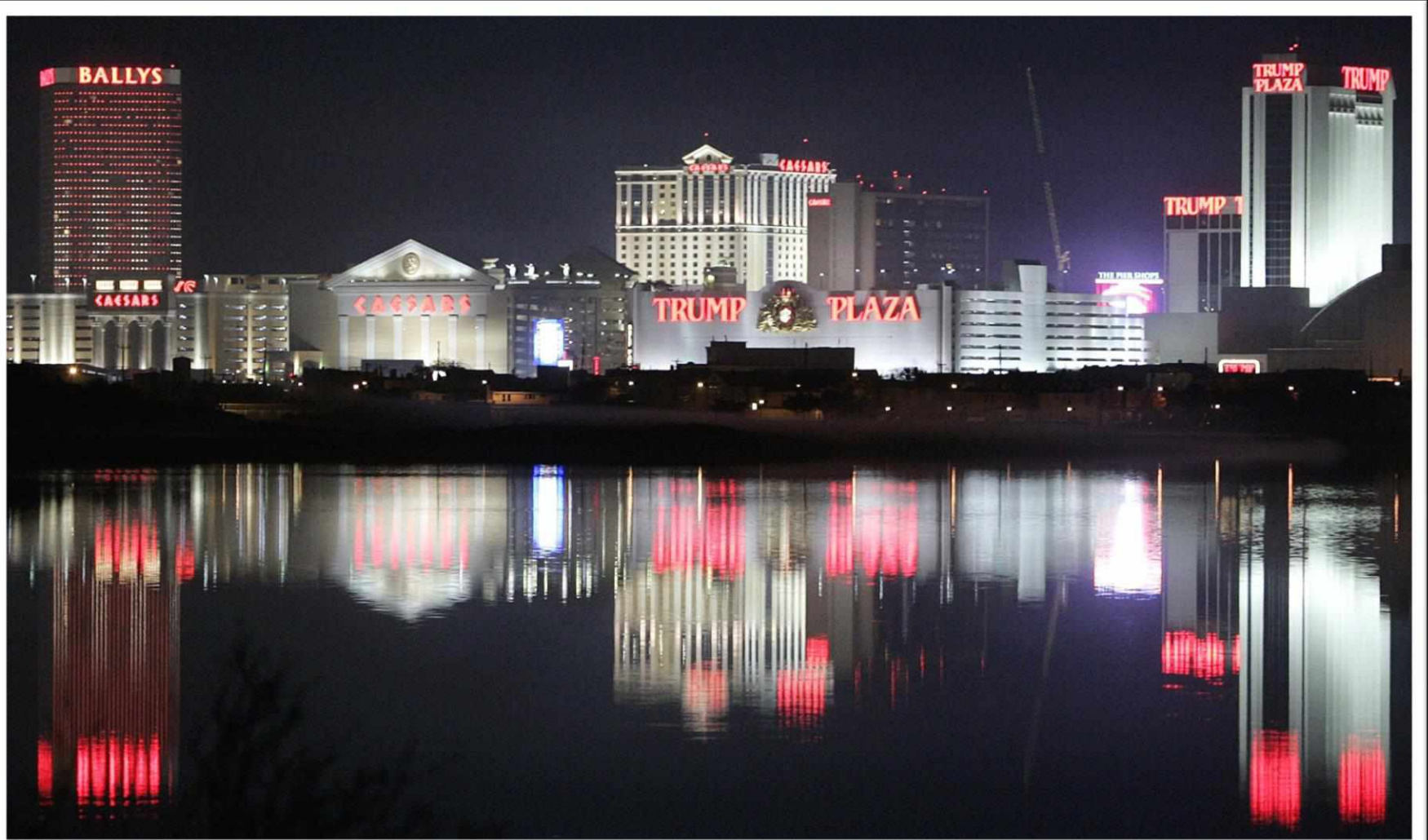
- **If you know nothing of it, thank God, and learn Bible use.**
- **If you love the Bible, then you will hate all evil gambling.**
- **You will see gambling as more proof of anti-God living.**
- **Let us contend for the faith by hating every wicked thing.**
- **The sons of God on earth should be different in this thing.**

# Las Vegas Skyline





# Atlantic City Skyline



# Foxwoods Resort Casino (Conn)





# Mystic Lake Casino (Minn)





# Monaco (Europe)



# Macau (China)





# Singapore



# **What Does the Bible Say? - 1**

- **The Bible does not address gambling by name or directly.**
- **Just like abortion, pornography, same-sex marriages, etc.**
- **We will rely on Bible precepts and principles of godliness.**
- **God's will can be known ... God's saints want to know it.**
- **Let's bring our .66 magnum to bear on this current issue.**



# **What Does the Bible Say? - 2**

- **We look at any scripture that deals with it indirectly.**
- **We apply any scriptural precept that relates at all to it.**
- **We use our principles of Christian Ethics to measure it.**
- **We use our principles of Christian Conduct to measure it.**
- **We include Christian Liberty or any other possible aspect.**

**WORLD SERIES**  
**OF**  
**POKER**



LOVE/CLUB









# Should You Care? - 1

**“Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way” (Ps 119:128).**

**“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 5:19).**

# Should You Care? - 2

**“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me” (Ps 101:3).**

**“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom 12:1-2).**

# Should You Care? - 3

**“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (Jas 4:4).**

**“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17).**

# Gambling

- **Gamble.** *verb.* To play games of chance for money. To stake money on some fortuitous event. [OED]
- **Gamble.** *noun.* Any transaction or pursuit involving risk and uncertainty. [OED]
- **Gamble.** Sinful gambling by amount, intent, venue, etc. violates numerous Bible principles as this study will show.
- **Gamble.** Allowed gambling is chance for fun or small matters.



# **Gambling Considerations - 1**

- **Worldwide gambling losses area about \$500 billion a year!**
- **March Madness sees \$12 billion in 3 weeks in the USA!**
- **Gambling was once closely connected to organized crime.**
- **Gambling is closely associated with other lusts of the flesh.**
- **Gambling's lying vanity leads to addicting bondage for many.**

# Why Advertise Like This?



# **Gambling Considerations - 2**

- **Gambling is closely associated to prostitution in Las Vegas.**
- **Prostitution and gambling are legal in the state of Nevada.**
- **Legal brothels exist only in the state of Nevada (rural areas).**
- **Prostitution is only a misdemeanor in the city of Las Vegas.**
- **Escort services take up 140 pages of their Yellow Pages!**

# Gambling Considerations - 3

- Gambling can result in addiction to compulsive gambling.
- Gambling is associated with more drinking and drunkenness.
- Gambling often causes poverty to those unable to afford it.
- Gambling is associated with much higher rates of suicide.
- Gambling can be stressful on families and breaks up homes.

# Gambling's Math of Stealing

- All gambling is based on covetousness, greed, and vanity.
- Casinos and all gaming institutions play to these base lusts.
- They create by any kind of means the **“house advantage.”**
- The **“house advantage”** is the % rate they steal from you.
- Playing with the **“gaming”** industry is like Samson with Delilah!



# Rates of Losing - 1

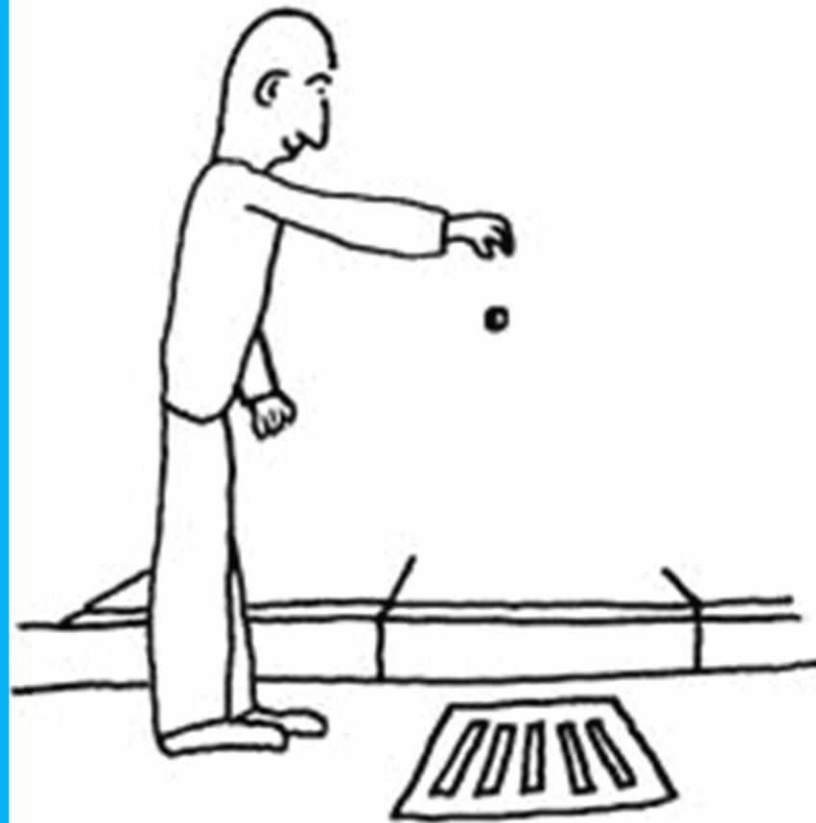
- A typical casino payout ratio is 95% = 5% house advantage.
- On average they steal 5% every time you play your stake.
- You could win a round or two ... but it will average 5% loss.
- Betting a stake 20 times will take it all ... 5% each time!
- Winning a big lottery is 1 chance ... out of 100 million!

# Rates of Losing - 2

- 3%** **Poker, blackjack, and other casino table games**
- 5%** **Slot machines**
- 10%** **Sports gambling**
- 17%** **Russian roulette**
- 25%** **Horse racing**
- 40%** **Lottery**

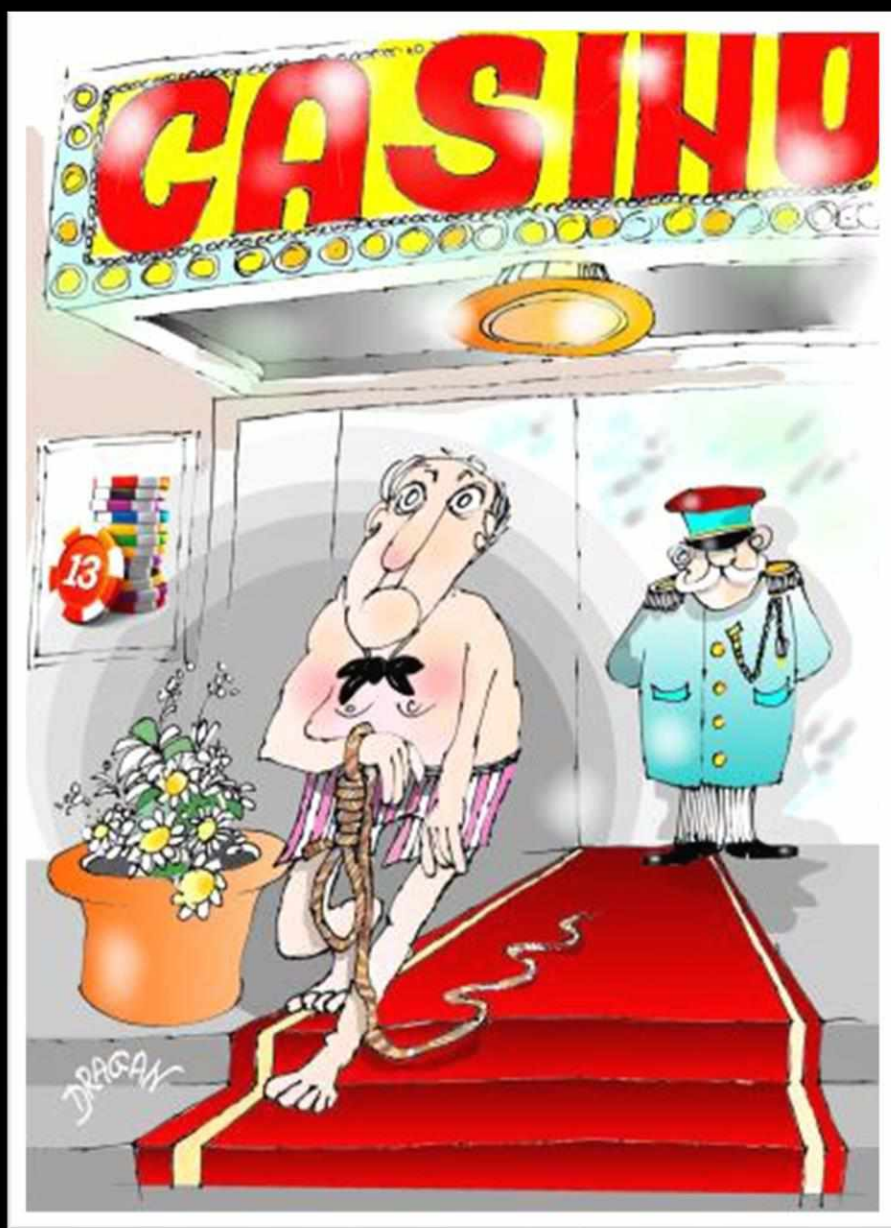


DOOR IS  
OVER HERE →  
WHEN YOU'RE  
DONE









# **A Victimless Crime?**

- **A libertarian approach of victimless crimes is very faulty.**
- **There is a victim overlooked – Creator God and Jesus Christ.**
- **Other victims – family, friends, truth, testimony, nation, etc.**
- **If I want to use my “fun money” gambling, it is my right.**
- **Everyone in the 21<sup>st</sup> century thinks everything is their right.**

# Is This Gambling?





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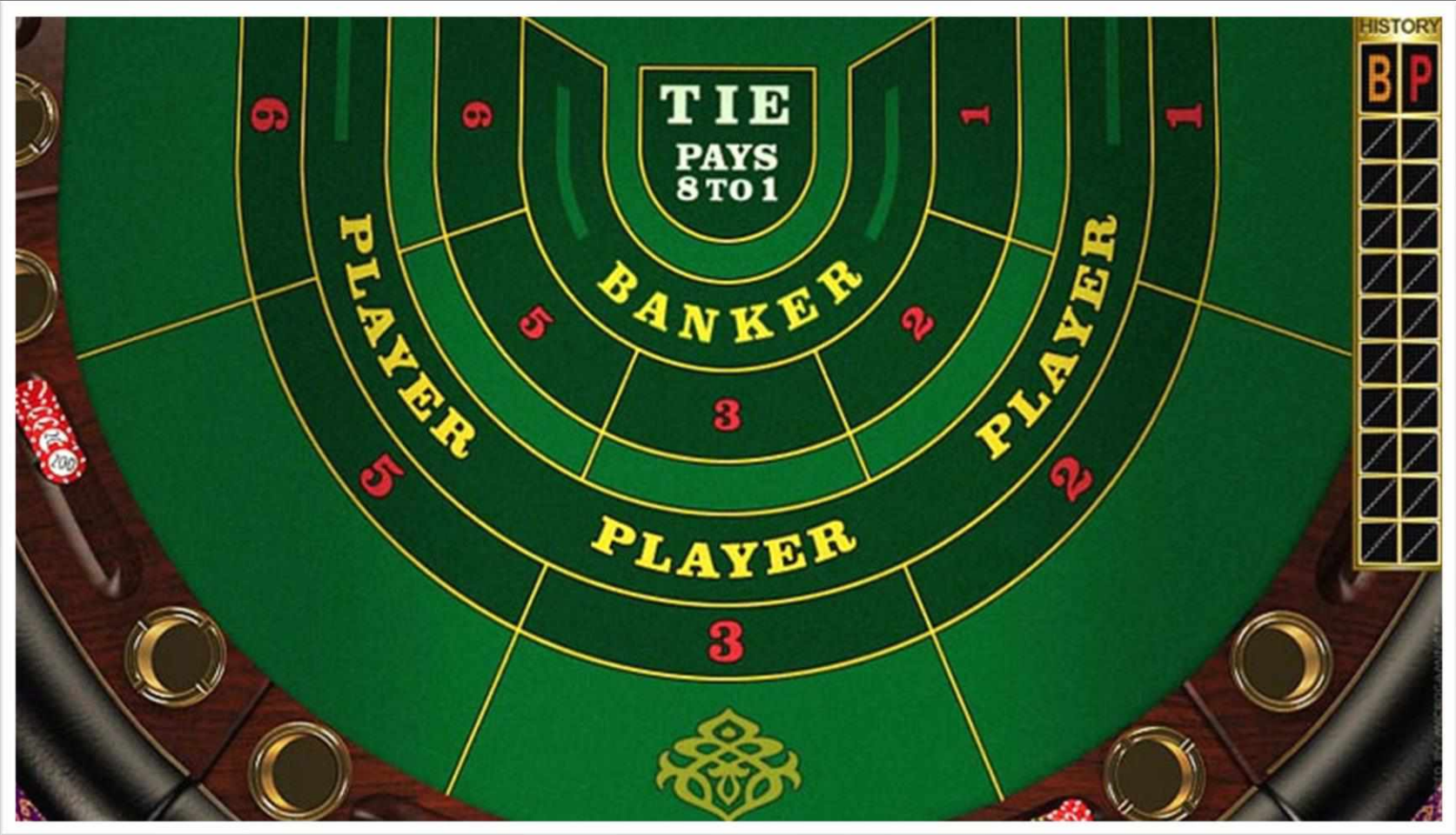


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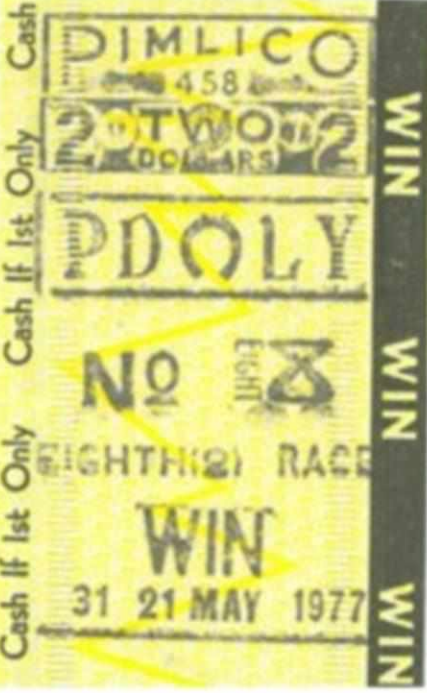


# Is This Gambling?

Kentucky Derby



Preakness



Belmont



# Is This Gambling?





# Is This Gambling?



# Is This Gambling?

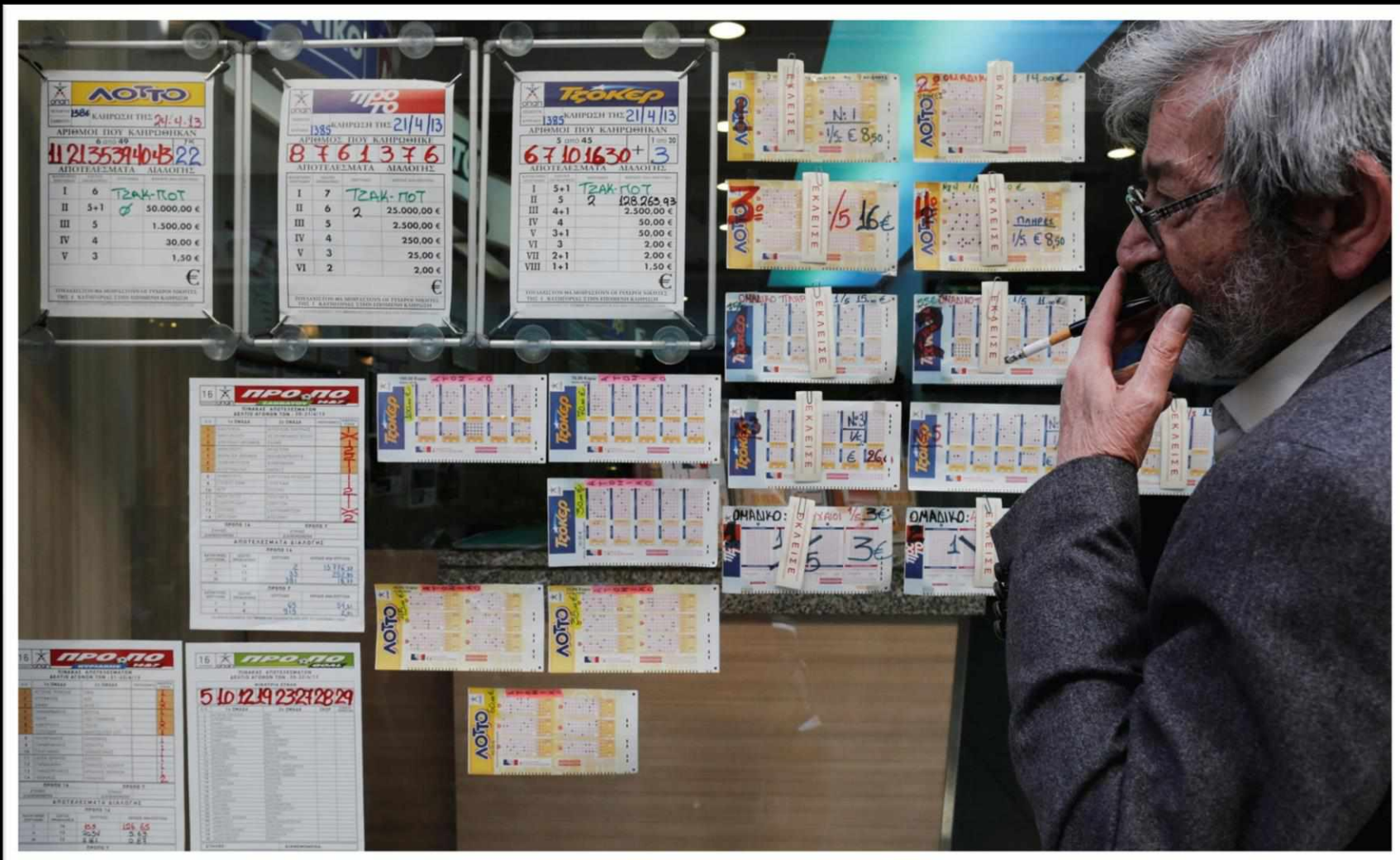




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# Examples of Sinful Gambling

- From video poker to Russian roulette, they violate God's word.
- From online gambling to casinos anywhere, they are sin.
- They are sin by amount, intent, venue, and much more.
- The Bible may not use the word ... the activity is damned.
- Consider the following 22 principles of God's holy judgment.



# Bible Precept #1: Chance (1)

*“The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD” (Pr 16:33).*

*“I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; **but time and chance happeneth to them all**” (Eccl 9:11).*

*“In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, **to the end that man should find nothing after him**” (Eccl 7:14).*

*“There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel **against the LORD**” (Pr 21:30).*

# **Bible Precept #1: Chance (2)**

- **God sovereignly rules all ... time, chance, prosperity, adversity.**
- **Gambling denies a sovereign God by exalting chance – by house and gambler. God beats statistical expectations in His timing!**
- **Sports gambling assumes by human pride that the race is to the swift, the battle to the strong, favor to men of skill, etc.**
- **If you reject His word ... He will turn chance events against you!**
- **Think wisely about the chance arrow that hit disguised Ahab!**

# **Bible Precept #1: Chance (3)**

- **Gambling can never and will never defeat God's will or power!**
- **He is God of chance and should be obeyed regarding chance.**
- **Trusting and obeying God brings holy probability (Eccl 11:1-6).**
- **Plans far nobler than gambling are under His will (Jas 4:13-16).**
- **In this precept and those that follow, the God of chance states His will against the sinful gambling loved by this evil world!**

## **Bible Precept #2: Work**

*“In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury” (Prov 14:23).*

*“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good...” (Eph 4:28).*

- **God made man to work, even in Eden, and all of it has profit.**
- **Even a saved thief should not look for a hasty way to catch up.**
- **Christians work a good thing – not gambling – to get ahead.**



# Bible Precept #3: Waste

*“He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster” (Pr 18:9).*

*“The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious (Pr 12:27).*

- God loves diligence, and it is the opposite of wasting.
- Though a hard worker ... a gambler is a sluggard's brother!
- God blesses diligence, not waste or loss, no matter the odds.

## **Bible Precept #4: Greed**

*“He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live” (Pr 15:27).*

*“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts ... For the love of money is the root of all evil” (I Tim 6:9-10).*

- The only reason they gamble is to win a jackpot of some kind.
- Gamblers hurt their families as stated and experience proves.
- Greed is to covet, which is idolatry and opposite contentment.

# Bible Precept #5: Risk

*“He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure” (Pr 11:15).*

*“A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend” (Pr 17:18).*

- God loves prudence, and it is the opposite of choosing risk.
- Risk of loss here is only potential – in gambling it is certain!
- Only fools take on unnecessary risk, and they will smart for it!

# **Bible Precept #6: Vanity**

***“Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase” (Pr 13:11).***

***“He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough” (Pr 28:19).***

- **Even if you win at gambling, your winnings will disappear.**
- **The vanity of thinking gambling has potential brings poverty.**
- **Casinos are entirely built on vanity ... real increase is by labor.**



# Bible Precept #7: Haste

*“He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him” (Pr 28:22).*

*“An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed” (Pr 20:21).*

- Gambling feeds the ambition of one big jackpot to be rich.
- Gamblers who get ahead by statistical anomaly cannot stop.
- Haste is not God’s work ethic ... He will destroy hasty wealth.

# Bible Precept #8: Fools Gold

*“For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and **the prosperity of fools shall destroy them**” (Pr 1:32).*

*“Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap” (Ps 69:22).*

- Winning proves nothing but planned variance from the mean.
- One lottery winner ... millions of losers ... which is published?
- God, casinos, lotteries conspire to sucker fools by winners!

# **Bible Precept #9: Satisfied**

*“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity” (Ec 5:10).*

*“The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied...” (Pr 30:15).*

- **Gambling lives on discontentment – constant desire for more.**
- **The next pull, next toss, next hand will be the winner ... wrong!**
- **Casinos never encourage you to quit and leave when ahead!**

# **Bible Precept #10: Wits**

*“Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee” (Pr 23:6-7).*

*“Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things” (Pr 23:33).*

- **Casinos are experts at wining and dining your wits away!**
- **Decisions regarding your income and assets require full wits!**
- **Alcohol is very conducive to gambling by removing prudence!**



# Bible Precept #11: Time

*“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph 5:16; Col 4:5).*

*“But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none ... And they that use this world, as not abusing it ... But I would have you without carefulness” (1 Cor 7:29-32).*

- Gambling at its best wastes time, so it is contrary to the Bible.
- Gambling demands ever more time to hit the desired jackpot.
- Gambling demands wasteful study of methods to improve odds.

# **Bible Precept #12: Majority**

*“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment” (Ex 23:2).*

*“God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God” (Luke 16:15).*

- **Worldwide approval and promotion of gambling proves it evil.**
- **What men highly esteem and do without care is abominable.**
- **Moral decisions made with public opinion are generally sin.**

# A Lottery Has ... 1 ... of These!



# A Lottery Has ... 1,000 ... of These!





**A Lottery Has ... 10,000 ... of These!**

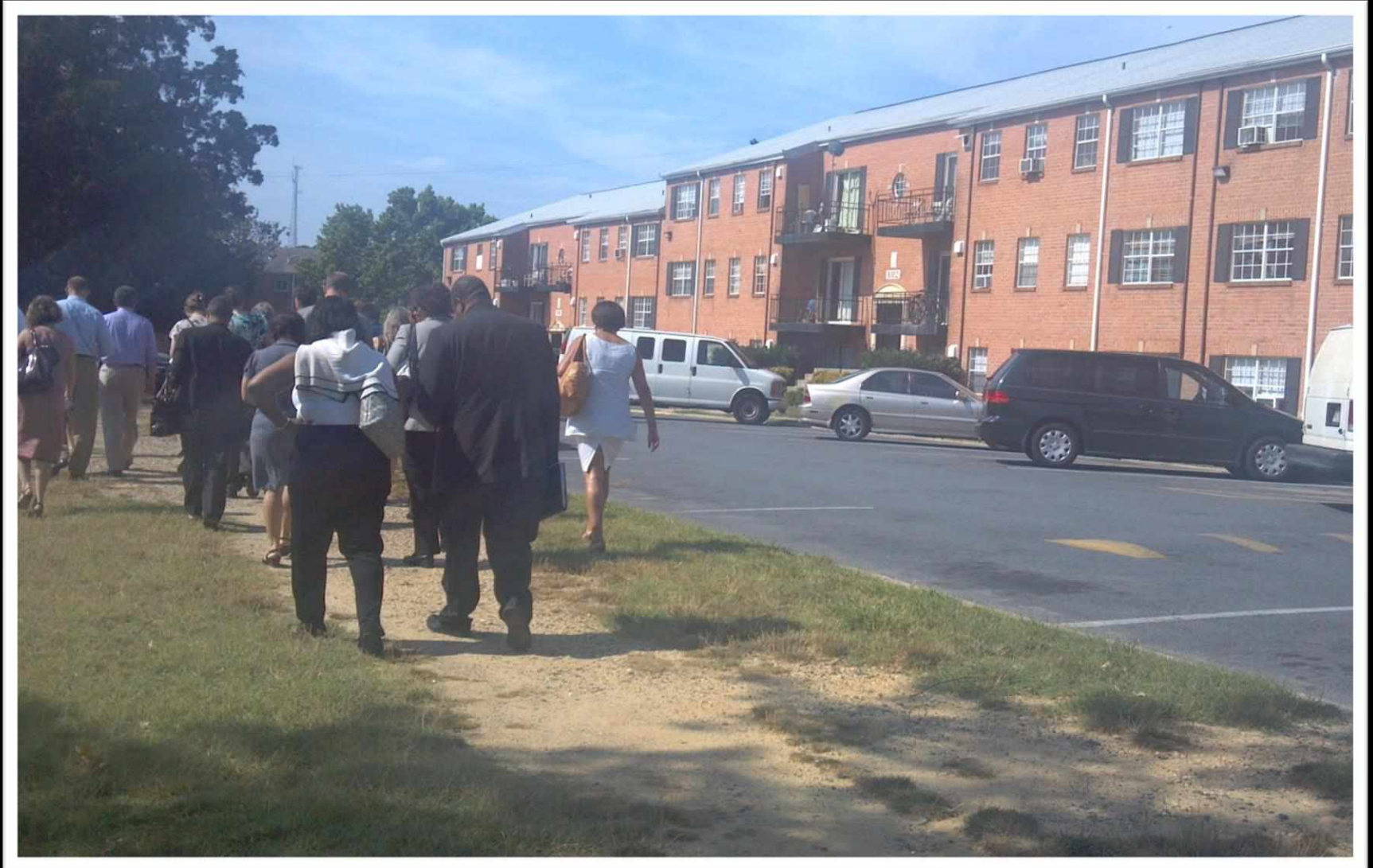


**A Lottery Has ... 100,000 ... of These!**





**A Lottery Has ... 1,000,000 ... of These!**



**A Lottery Has ... 10,000,000 ... of These!**





# Applying Bible Principles

- **Principles of Ethics ...** [www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-principles.pdf](http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-principles.pdf)
- **Table of Principles ...** [www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-table-of-principles.pdf](http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-table-of-principles.pdf)
- **Ethics Case Studies ...** [www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-case-studies.pdf](http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-case-studies.pdf)
- **Christian Liberty ...** <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/church/christian-liberty/sermon.php>

# Bible Principles of Ethics Violated

- Principle of Precedence proves it is guaranteed confiscation.
- Principle of Tempting avoids tempting God by wasting gifts.
- Principle of Temptation requires avoiding ungodly situations.
- Principle of Offence avoids encouraging or hurting others.
- Principle of Appearance keeps you from being seen there.

# Bible Rules of Conduct Violated

- Rule of Glory requires all things to God's glory (I Cor 10:31).
- Rule of Thorns avoids hindering God's word (Luke 8:14).
- Rule of Power avoids anything that can dominate (I Cor 6:12).
- Rule of Contention chooses actions opposing world (Pr 28:4).
- Rule of Marriage chooses actions pleasing Spouse (James 4:4).

# Anything Less than Hatred Is Not Enough

“Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and **I hate every false way**” (Ps 119:128).

“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: **I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me**” (Ps 101:3).

“Ye that love the LORD, **hate evil**: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked” (Ps 97:10).

“**The fear of the LORD is to hate evil**: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, **do I hate**” (Pr 8:13).



# Is This “Gambling”?



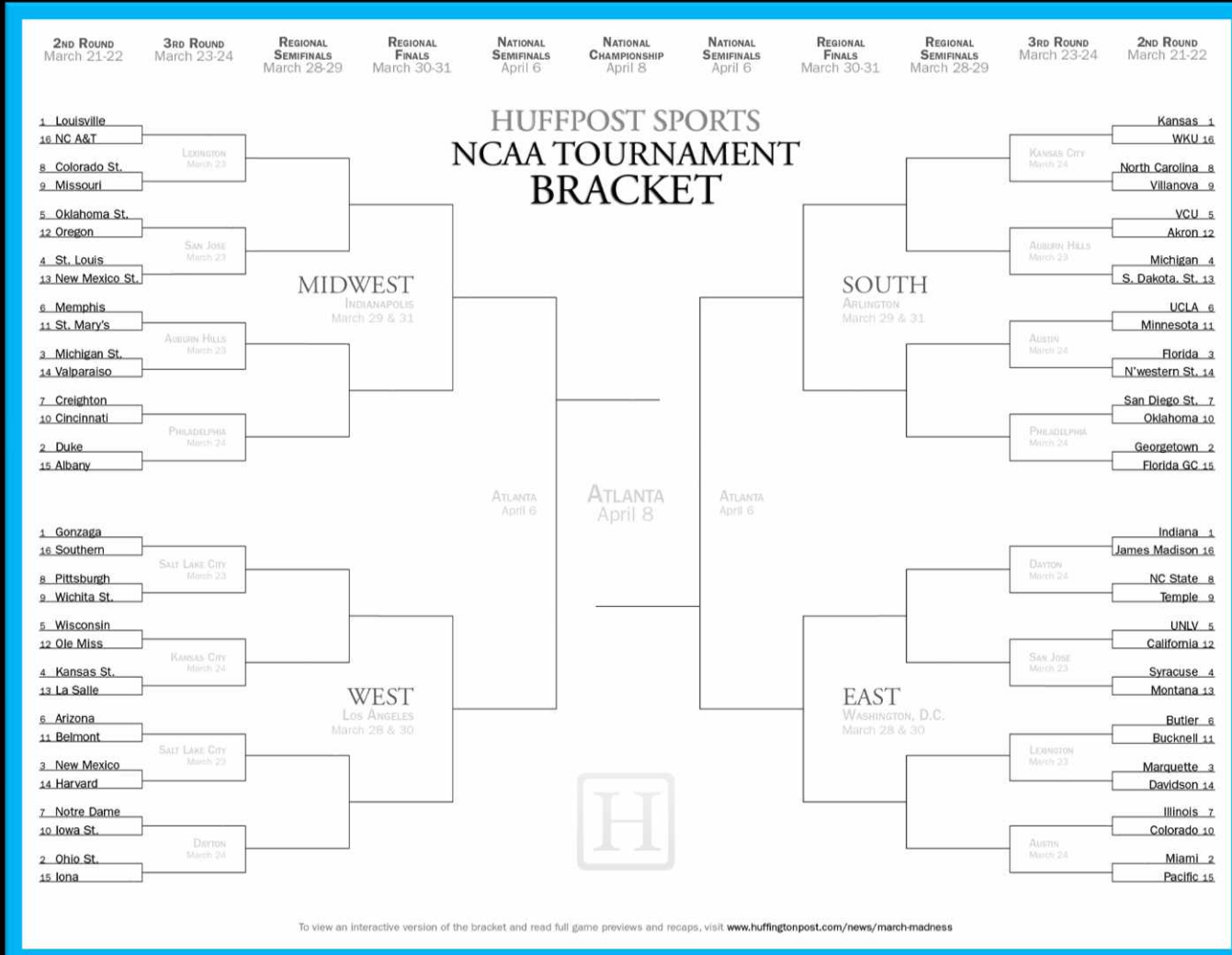
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**iRun**  
Running & Walking Specialty Store

**5K/10K** *Run*

## PRIZE MONEY

A total of **\$1020** prize money for the top 3 overall finishers

### 10K

1st **\$150**

2nd **\$100**

3rd **\$50**

### 5K

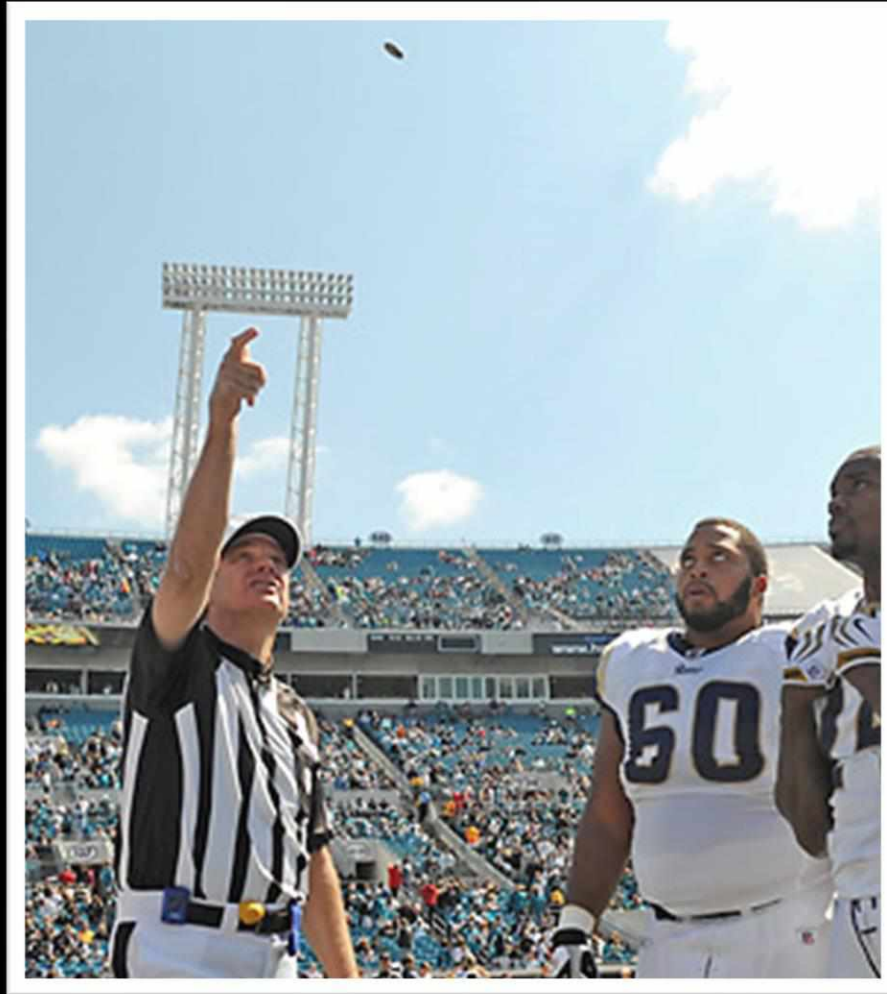
1st **\$120**

2nd **\$60**

3rd **\$30**



# Is This “Gambling”?





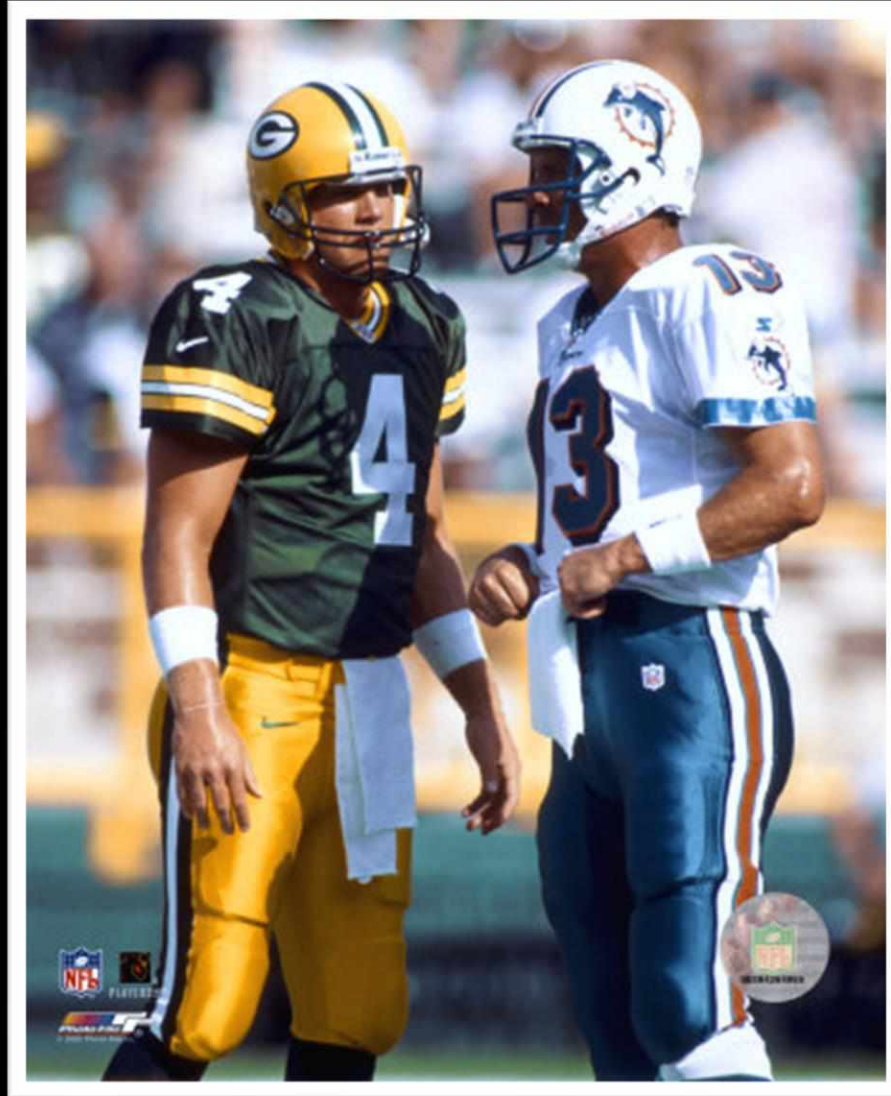
# Examples of Allowed “Gambling”

- From monopoly to flipping a coin, God’s word allows them.
- We only call them “gambling” for the chance involved.
- They are liberty by amount, intent, venue, and more.
- The Bible may not teach them ... but they are allowed.
- Consider the following 6 principles of God’s holy opinion.

# Bible Principles Allowing

- ***Materiality*** allows negligible amounts of some things.
- ***Incidental*** allows indirect contact with sinful objects.
- ***Ignorance*** keeps a free conscience by not asking questions.
- ***Liberty*** allows personal preference where Bible is silent.
- ***Over Much*** conservative beyond scripture is excess (Ecc1 7:16).
- ***Pastoral*** uses pastor to help set guidelines (Heb 13:7; Eze 44:23).

# Do Fools Gamble on This?



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# Christians Will Not ... (1)

- **Visit casinos ...** for they are evil by amount, intent, and venue.
- **Buy lottery tickets ...** for you can donate 100% directly to ED.
- **Gamble online ...** for it violates rules above and wastes time.
- **Bet on horses, dogs, cocks ...** it is rigged to steal 25% of bet.
- **Gamble at home ...** with amount or intent condemned above.

# Christians Will Not ... (2)

- **Wager** ... unless pennies, private for fun, lesson, controversy.
- **Assume risk** ... but necessary, prudent for business, life, etc.
- **Tempt themselves** ... by doing anything leading to gambling.
- **Support gambling** ... by votes, petition, approval, silence, etc.
- **Play Russian roulette** ... no matter how many open chambers!

# Christians Have Liberty to ... (1)

- **Play monopoly ...** for the risk is paper only and is at home.
- **Play penny poker ...** for the fun is pennies and is at home.
- **Play bracket challenge ...** it is entry fee for team predicting.
- **Enter 5k races with prizes ...** it is entry fee to promote race.
- **Use weight-loss pool ...** cash incentive to lose weight.



# Christians Have Liberty to ... (2)

- **Play bingo in good place ... for pennies of discretionary funds.**
- **Toss 3 balls for \$1 ... it is no different than \$30 to fish all day.**
- **Toss a coin or dice ... to settle insignificant things or matters.**
- **Draw straws ... to choose insignificant things or matters.**
- **Use playing cards ... without asking questions about origin.**

# Anything Less than Hatred Is Not Enough

“Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and **I hate every false way**” (Ps 119:128).

“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: **I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me**” (Ps 101:3).

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# Miscellaneous Thoughts - 1

- **Why does Gamblers Anonymous exist? Interesting, huh?**
- **Gambling works! ... by transferring money from fools to owners who will have the greater guilt when facing God!**
- **Lotteries work! ... by poor fools putting their children in poverty to pay for the education of wise men's children!**
- **Futures, options, and stock trading can be nearly as bad if a fool invests/trades without an "edge" and risk management.**

# Miscellaneous Thoughts - 2

- **Results prove nothing ... except a test from God to see if you will believe and obey Him over your ignorance of statistics!**
- **Lotteries are a regressive tax on the poor, as they buy the majority of the tickets, and they have no taxable income.**
- **The Singapore government charges \$100 for citizens to even enter the casino pictured – it is free entry for foreigners!**
- **Do a little research of the relationship of gambling to suicide.**



# Miscellaneous Thoughts - 3

- **Germany taxes casino revenue at 45-80% (by state) compared to 7% in Las Vegas. A great way to minimize it!**
- **Casinos were outlawed in Switzerland until 2000.**
- **Studies have shown that lottery winners typically lose all they won rather quickly (Pr 13:11; 20:21; Jer 17:11).**
- **A wonderful use for mathematics and probability and statistics is fleecing fools of their money quickly, painlessly!**

# Miscellaneous Thoughts - 4

- **Why is it that the lower end of the economic scale gambles the most? Does this not indicate its economic wisdom?**
- **Why is alcohol cheap or free at a casino? Because the lower your inhibitions the larger your wagers for their overall profit!**
- **Why is so much spent on appearance and trappings? So you will feel comfortable and rich and wanting to be a high roller!**
- **Think you can win at blackjack? Casinos use up to 8 decks (400 cards). Beat them, and you will never get in another casino.**

# For Further Study

**Proverbs 1:32 ...** [http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/01\\_32.php](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/01_32.php).

**God of Chance ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/god/dominion-of-god/sermon.php>.

**Back to Bible ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/scripture/bring-it-back-to-the-bible/sermon.php>.

**Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out ...** [www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/be-sure-your-sin4.pdf](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/be-sure-your-sin4.pdf)

## Others Against Gambling

**Ultra strict ...** <http://www.gospelway.com/morality/gambling.php>.

**Ultra strict ...** [http://www.prca.org/pamphlets/pamphlet\\_93.htm](http://www.prca.org/pamphlets/pamphlet_93.htm).

**Other ...** [http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/Evils%20in%20America/gambling\\_is\\_a\\_sin.htm](http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/Evils%20in%20America/gambling_is_a_sin.htm).

**Casino Watch ...** <http://www.casinowatch.org/index.html>.

**Casino Watch ...** <http://www.casinowatch.org/links/links.html>.

**Gamblers Anonymous ...** <http://www.gamblersanonymous.org/ga/>.

[www.LetGodBeTrue.com](http://www.LetGodBeTrue.com)