**Wanna Bet?**

**Reading – John 19:17-24**

There are 3 main elements inherent to gambling.

1. Relies on a chance event or an uncertain outcome.

2. Something of value wagered depending on the outcome of the event.

3. That which is won is at the direct loss of others.

 **Justifying It**

1. “The proceeds usually go to good causes.” ***(Romans 3:8) And why not say, "Let us do evil that good may come"?; as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.***

 ***(Numbers 20:11) Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank***.

***(2 John 1:9-11) Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. {10} If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; {11} for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.***

B. “There is nothing inherently wrong with poker, bingo, etc. in and of themselves; they are merely games.”

C. “You can’t find the words, Gamble or Lottery in the Bible.”

**Encourages Irresponsible Financial Stewardship**

The Christian is expected to be a good steward. ***(1 Chronicles 29:10-14) Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. {11} Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. {12} Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. {13} "Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name. {14} But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You.***

***(1 Peter 4:10) As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.***

**A DISHONEST MEANS OF getting Gain -** There are 3 honest ways to get gain.

1. WORK! ***(Ephesians 4:28) Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.***

***(1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)*** instructs us ***to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, {12} that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.***

***(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. Fair Exchange - ***(Matthew 13:45-46) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, {46} "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.***

***(Acts 4:34-37) Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, {35} and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. {36} And… Barnabas, a Levite of the country of Cyprus, {37} having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.***

3. Generosity & charity of others. ***(Acts 20:35) "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"***

***(Jeremiah 17:11) "As a partridge that broods but does not hatch, So is he who gets riches, but not by right; It will leave him in the midst of his days, And at his end he will be a fool."***

Gambling is unjust gain and often dependent upon deception and trickery.

The Lottery {Gambling} is merely stealing by mutual consent.

The Lottery, as with all gambling, deliberately seeks the loss of another. ***(Colossians 3:5) Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.***

All gambling promotes the wrong attitude. ***(Romans 13:9) For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."***

**Gambling Is Inherently Addictive**

Addiction is sin ***(Matthew 6:24) "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.***

We are called to be separate. ***(2 Corinthians 6:17-18) Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." {18} "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."***

***(1 Peter 2:9-12) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; {10} who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. {11} Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, {12} having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.***