



# Pastor's Comments

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## Northampton Assembly of God

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### Gambling? I'm Surprised!

With the economy so bad, I'm surprised anyone would gamble away their hard-earned money at casinos, lotteries, etc, and not see this con scheme for what it is—"a sucker's game!" —*Forbes*, 1/16/84

I'm surprised any who call themselves "Christian" would gamble when the Bible so clearly states, "*For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows*" (1 Timothy 6:10). The truly "born again" (John 3) have a new nature! "*Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The greed that drives gambling is inconsistent with a new life in Christ! "He that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent" (Proverbs 28:20).

I'm surprised some try to disguise their greed by justifying gambling as a means to help a worthy cause. The truth is only a small part of their money goes to such causes! Gambling does more damage than good! It hurts the economy. It produces no goods. It depresses business by diverting money which otherwise could have been spent on consumer goods. It is the poor who are most often the victims and it devastates families, "*He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house*" (Proverbs 15:27).

I'm surprised we tolerate leaders who push the addictive evil of gambling so unlike our first president, George Washington, who said, "Gambling is the child of avarice, the brother of iniquity, and the father of mischief." Scripture declares, "*He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him*" (Proverbs 28:23). "*He that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool*" (Jeremiah 17:11). Tragically, such a fool "who will gamble with money will gamble with his soul!"