



Pastor's Comments

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Gambling

Fact: "You're seven times more likely to be killed by lightning than to win a million in the state lottery." —*Harper's*, 7/83

Observation: "The first time a man bets he bets to win. The rest of the time he's trying to get even."

Conclusion: "The lottery in all its forms is a **sucker's game!**" —*Forbes*, 1/16/84

The Bible condemns gambling and warns of the destruction it brings! "He that maketh **haste to be rich shall not be innocent**" (Prov. 28:20). "He that is **greedy of gain troubleth his own house...**" (Prov. 15:27). "Wealth gotten **by vanity** shall be diminished..." (Prov. 13:11). "He that **hasteth to be rich** hath an **evil eye**, and considereth not that **poverty shall come** upon him" (Prov. 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**" (Jer. 17:11).

Some **attempt to disguise their greed** by justifying the lottery as a means to help a worthy cause or to lower property taxes. The first question to ask: "**Is it ever right to do wrong in order to do right?**" Secondly, only a very small part of their money goes to such causes! If they really want to help, they should contribute directly. Thirdly, the truth is that **the lottery 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**. George Washington, said, "Gambling is the **child of avarice**, the **brother of iniquity**, and the **father of mischief**."

The Bible says, "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**" (I Tim. 6:10).

Tragic truth: "A person who will **gamble with money** will **gamble with his soul!**"

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