

# "Would Jesus Gamble?"

*"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor." (Exodus 20:17 NASB)*

This is part two of "Would Jesus Gamble?" See Part one for background. Before we get serious I have the following short stories.

## Lost Amidst the Gold



A museum in Deadwood, South Dakota, displays this inscription left by a beleaguered prospector: "I lost my gun. I lost my horse. I am out of food. The Indians are after me. But I've got all the gold I can carry." Sometimes this is the way we are living – wrong

priorities.

## Tombstone With \$-Sign



Did you ever see a tombstone with a dollar sign on it? Neither have I. I have known hundreds of men who lived as though their only ambition was to accumulate it, but I have never known one who wanted a final judgment of

himself to be based on what he got. A man wants people to read in his obituary, not a balance sheet of his wealth, but a story of his service to humanity. – Homilope


## ~Gambling is not Biblical~

Quotes:

- ❖ Saint Augustine said, "The devil invented gambling."
- ❖ John Calvin outlawed gambling in the entire city of Geneva.
- ❖ Martin Luther said, "Money won by gambling is not won without self-seeking and sin."

I have seven statements that show that gambling is not biblical. Let us get into them below.

## 1. Gambling denies the reality of God as Sovereign.

Scripture clearly and repeatedly teaches that God is the sovereign of the universe, and that as the sovereign of the universe, He both miraculously,  that's by suspending natural law, and providentially, that's by operating through natural law, controls every detail of the outworking of the events in this universe to achieve His own purposes. He is sovereign and He is in control of everything and I do include everything. God is what holds this universe together.

*The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all. (Psalms 103:19 NASB)* He has His throne in heaven where He rules over all.

God even determines how much of an inheritance every person gets. Look at Psalms 47:4; *He chooses our inheritance for us, The glory of Jacob whom He loves. Selah. (Psalms 47:4 NASB)*

It is even God that gives us the power to get wealth as we read in Deuteronomy; *But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. (Deuteronomy 8:18 KJV)*

A couple of verses in Daniel tell us that God lifts up rulers and put down rulers. *"This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers And the decision is a command of the holy ones, In order that the living may know*



*That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men." (Daniel 4:17 NASB)*

*that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes. (Daniel 4:25 NASB)*

“God is sovereign as He tells us in His Word.”

To believe in luck is to believe that God doesn't exist or that God is not sovereign. If God does exist, and he does, and since He is all-powerful, all-



knowing; He is the creator and sustainer of the universe; He is the One who upholds everything by His own power and brings to pass His own will, there is no such thing as luck- it is non-

existent and chance is non-existent. Things just don't happen randomly by chance. Chance is nothing, it is non-existent. If you understand that, there is no such thing as luck or chance; then why would you gamble? Just remember we can all win with God and “Eternal Life.” You do not have to be a loser!

## **2. Gambling is not good stewardship of what God has given us.**

David put it very well in Psalms 24:1; *The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.* (Psalms 24:1



NASB) If the Lord owns it all, then we are just stewards of His universe? This is the bottom line and to gamble is not

stewardship at all. Everything belongs to Him, not us; we own nothing. We have come into this world naked and we will leave that way.

The Lord goes on to tells us that; *"For every beast of the forest is Mine,*



*The cattle on a thousand hills."I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine.*

*"If I were hungry I would not tell you, For the world is Mine, and all it contains.* (Psalms 50:10-12 NASB) Everything is His, He owns it all.

It is all His and we have to use our resources He gives us to bring Him glory, and not glory to us. *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* (1 Corinthians 10:31 NASB)

Paul tells us in I Corinthians 4:2 we are to be faithful; *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.* (1 Corinthians 4:2 KJV)

### 3. Gambling demeans the God-given place of work.

Have you ever heard of the old saying, "Idle hands are the devil's playthings," well folks, it's true. God didn't give us work because it was good



for Him; He gave us work because it is good for us. Fallen people need to be preoccupied with something other than temptation. God has designed work as a blessing. I know some of you may not think that, but just be out of work with nothing

to do and see how you feel. God laid it out way back in Genesis 3:19;

*By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.* " (Genesis 3:19 NASB) Folks, we are to work for what we have.

It's to your benefit to work and the book of Proverbs has a lot to say about working and earning your bread and one of the verses that ties in work and gambling is Proverbs 12:11; *He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread; But he that followeth after vain persons is void of understanding.* (Proverbs 12:11 ASV) There is no better example of chasing vain persons or fantasies, as some Bible translations say, than gambling. It causes them to disdain work and throw away their money.

### 4. Gambling is driven by the sin of covetousness and materialism.

Jesus warns us in Luke 12:15; *Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."* (Luke 12:15 NASB) Are our possessions and greed more important than our abundant life with Christ?



Gambling violates the tenth commandment, which is not to covet, as recorded in Exodus 20:17 and Deuteronomy 5:21. We started out with this commandment at the top of this message. Gambling exist because the sin of greed feeds covetousness and it betrays discontent with God's provision. Greed,

materialism, a love of money, they all flourish in a gambling environment. Gambling, which is built on covetousness is an act of unfaithfulness to God. It assumes that God has not given us what we ought to have. We assume more is better, but is it? Has God not given you enough?

Listen to what it says in Proverbs 30:7-8; *Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion,* (Proverbs 30:7-8 NASB) The writer is saying, “keep deception and lies far from me;” For I want the Truth, the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth.



In the other part he says, “Give me neither poverty nor riches,” so if I have riches, I may deny Him and say; who is the Lord? I don’t need Him! Or if on the other hand I’m poor I may steal.

The last part of verse 8 says: “Feed me with the food that is my portion.” Yes, God knows what each of us need. He will give us no more or less – give me just what I need Lord you must say and be content in Him.

### **5. Gambling seeks gain from the loss of others.**

"You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15 NASB) The eighth commandment you are breaking when you gamble. It may seem odd to you, but the winner in gambling is stealing from the losers, unknowing who they may be. Gambling is pursuing prosperity at another’s expense, exploiting the poor and the undisciplined. It fundamentally is a violation of the command to “love your neighbor.” Gambling teaches greed and covetousness, and attacks the ethics of hard work. It also has a way of on-demand gratification; instead of seeking God for our needs in His timing, not ours.

Gambling is seductive. It lures people in, and Paul said in I Corinthians 6:12; *All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.* (1 Corinthians 6:12 KJV) Paul was saying that he will not become addictive to anything; of course to Christ he was addictive. When you play that first hand

of poker or pull that handle on some slot machine you may very well become addictive to gambling, because it is seductive and a luring effect for the game of chance and luck.

For anyone to support gambling, including the United States government is a travesty on moral and social responsibility. What will the government be into next; selling illegal drugs. Anything for the tax dollar!

## **6. Gambling breaks the laws of God.**

Gambling breaks the laws of God and is wrong from a biblical perspective. There is not one verse that has the word gambling in it, but the



whole thrust of the Bible's teaching is against gambling. Three of the Ten Commandments have a bearing on the issue of gambling, Exodus 20:3, 15, 17. – 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

*"You shall have no other gods before Me. (Exodus 20:3 NASB)*

As any other sin you can make gambling an addiction and a god. Anything you have that separate you from God will make that sin your god, for our Creator God is a jealous God. Remember He is the one and only Holy God.

*"You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15 NASB)* We are stealing by consent. The other gamblers will know that they may lose their possessions.

*"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor." (Exodus*



*20:17 NASB)*

We are coveting or taking possessions from our neighbor and giving them nothing in return.

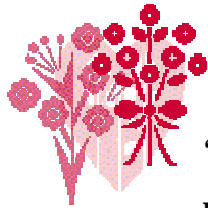
Proverbs warn against the greed related to gambling.

Proverbs 13:11, 15:27.

*Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, But the one who gathers by labor increases it. (Proverbs 13:11 NASB)*

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

Gambling also does damage by violating the principle of love. Roman 13:8.



*Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. (Romans 13:8 KJV)*

“Love meets needs, but gambling exploits: love entreats, but gambling mistreats; love strengthens, but gambling weakens; love builds up, but gambling tears down; love never fails, but gambling ever fails.” We could go on and on with Scriptures; there are many.

### **7. Gambling is addictive.**

*All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

*(1 Corinthians 6:12 KJV)*

Expedient defined: “useful, proper, and profitable.” You are not to partake in anything that can be addicting. Seek God and His advice in all matters.

*promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. (2 Peter 2:19 NASB)*

Here Peter tells us that a man is overcome by what enslaves him. We are only to be slaves to Jesus, not gambling, not any worldly thing.



I read about many people and you probably have also, that are good people, but they turn into thieves all because of the uncontrollable urge to gamble. One such account that I recently read about is below:

A former Goodrich, Michigan tax preparer faces 11 felony charges after police said he swindled more than \$1 million from senior citizens, then gambled it away. John Benjamin III, age 30, is facing up to 20 years in prison. He told retirees he would invest in real estate and promised high returns. Instead he took the money to casinos in Detroit and lost it all.

~What can we do~

**1. We are to separate ourselves from the unholy.**

*"Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.* (2 Corinthians 6:17 NASB)



*but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*

(1 Peter 1:15-16 NASB)

We are called to be what? - "Holy" and to be imitators of Jesus Christ!

**2. Everything you do is to be done to the Glory of God.**

*Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* (1 Corinthians 10:31 NASB)

Paul has good advice for us all; just think before acting and ask the question, "is it to the glory of God or is it for our own glory?" It's a simple question!

~What can one person do? ~

- 1- Determine now that, if you have never gambled, you will never start.
- 2- Determine now that, if you have started gambling, you will do whatever it takes to stop.
- 3- If you have started gambling, pray and seek God for guidance so you can stop, God's way.
- 4- Pray for anyone among your family or friends who is gambling – to whatever degree.

~God Given Wealth~

*It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.* (Proverbs 10:22 NASB)

It is God-given wealth; it brings no sorrow or regrets. It is attained by honoring God and faithful service to Him. Conversely, the "love of money" is the root of all evil. I didn't say money in and of itself, but the "love of money."



## What can money buy?

A bed but not sleep,  
Books but not brains,  
Food but not appetite  
Dress but not beauty  
House but not home  
Drugs but not health  
Amusement but not joy  
Flattery but not peace  
A church but not salvation  
Loyalty but not love  
A crucifix but not a Savior  
Companions but not real friends  
Knowledge but not wisdom

### ~God Given Way to Wealth~

*Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than he who is crooked though he be rich. (Proverbs 28:6 NASB)*

Cultivate inner beauty, which is better. Spiritually, success is not measured in possessions, but in integrity.

### “World will give you up”



A man once said to D. L. Moody, “Now that I am converted, must I give up to the world?” “No,” answered the evangelist, “you need not give up the world; if you give a ringing testimony for the Son of God the world will give you up pretty quick. They will not want you around.”

### ~The Love of Money~

*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 KJV)*

“Whatever greed is hungry for. It always ends up wanting more.”

Leonard and Thelma Spinard

## ~She lost it all~ True Story

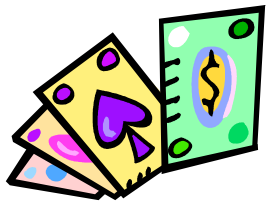
I had a client a few years ago that came to me and she had won somewhat of a large sum of money while gambling in Cherokee at the casino. The first year she came to my office she was happy, bubbly, and on top of the world.



The second year she came to the office she had some winnings but her losses were far more than her winnings. And I could tell she was not as bubbly and happy as she had been the year before. Her gambling losses were taking a toll on her financially.

The third year she came to the office was not a good year for her. Her countenance was not happy and bubbly as before and I could tell she was down in her emotions and attitude. I guess she had reasons to be down since she had lost her house and was not taking enough money out of her paycheck to pay her taxes. She had used this money to gamble; she was addicted.

I talked to her about it and she said, “She would be doing okay until some friends would come by or call to go with them to the gambling casino.” She would break down and go and then lose more money which she didn’t have to lose. As said before, she had even lost her house due to her gambling.



The last account I had of her was that she was going to quit her good paying job that she had and move to Tennessee with her brother. I sometimes think of this lady when gambling is brought up in some conversation.

But you never read of people like this that has lost it all financially. In the media, it’s usually the winners, not the hundreds or thousands others that lost it all. It all looks good on the surface, but deep down it’s killing people financially and emotionally. This is not what God intended for His people.

## ~The Flesh versus the Spirit~

*For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things*

*that you please. (Galatians 5:17 NASB)* Paul tells that we have a sinful human nature of the flesh and it is constantly in conflict with the Spirit. This is the reason we have to be renewed daily.

*And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.*

*(Matthew 17:8 NASB)* As the song says, turn your eyes upon Jesus. We are to have our eyes on Jesus, not the world and worldly things. Eyes only for Jesus.

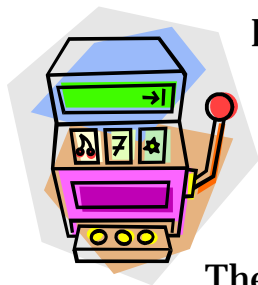
**~They Crucified Him~**

*And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots. (Matthew 27:35 NASB)*

Why did they divide up His garments? By now they were surely dirty and bloody from the beatings He had endured. I'm sure they had heard the stories of Jesus healing people just by touching His garment. Maybe they thought they could sell the garments for a profit to some of His followers or to someone that thought the garments had some magic in them. Or maybe it was to pass the time while waiting for Jesus to die. His last earthly possessions.

**~Jesus in Vegas~**

Can you see "Jesus" dressed as "Elvis" walking through a casino in Las Vegas



playing the slot machines, putting His quarters in them like everyone else? Then see your Jesus staggering over to the crap tables and rolling those dice and saying out loud "seven come eleven" hoping to win the big one with each roll of the dice.

Then Jesus, maybe going by the black-jack tables on His way out for a few hands of twenty-one, for the jackpot. Then on His way home he stops to purchase a lottery ticket or two so He can win the millions as offered in the advertisements or promotions.



If you can see Jesus gambling, the one that died on the cross to save us from our sins, then go ahead and buy that lottery ticket or get in that footfall pool at the office or place of work or take some side bet with another about who will win the next ball championship.

But, I don't think you can see a Holy God doing these things. For in I Peter it tells us how to live in this world, it says; *"but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." (1 Peter 1:15-16 NASB)* For what is



Holiness? The dictionary says it is: "Living according to a strict or highly moral religious or spiritual system;" saintly: *a holy person.*<sup>1</sup> I like to use the definition; "To be set apart from the world." Just remember this, if the world is doing it,

it is probably wrong and something that Jesus would not approve of or participate in. Satan rules these worldly sins.

### **~How about the sinful device of gambling~**



We may not be able to eradicate gambling as well other sinful devices in this world, but as Christians we are to refuse to participate in gambling and other destructive sins. Good stewards of God's resources will have no part in this great societal cancer. Let us look at these verses in Colossians.

*Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

**(Colossians 3:1 NASB)**

*Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*

**(Colossians 3:2 NASB)**

*Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.*

**(Colossians 3:5 NASB)**

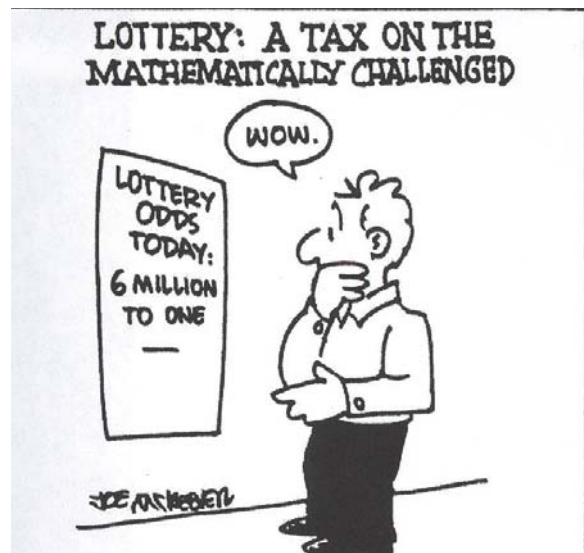
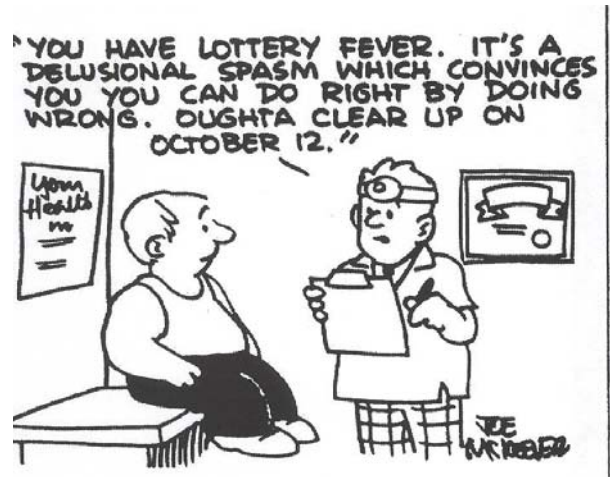
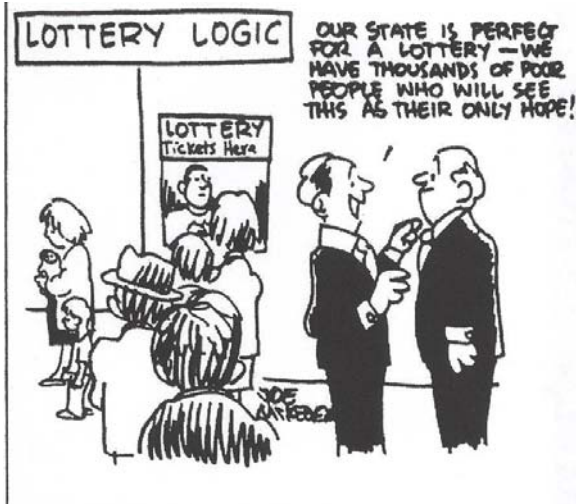
*For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,*

**(Colossians 3:6 NASB)**

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As one writer put it; “As Christians, true community is not through gambling, but through the church. Our reward is not found in getting, but in giving. Our major duty is not in hoarding, but in sharing. Our ultimate destiny is not determined at the blackjack table, but at the Lord’s Table. Our hope is not found in the Queen of spades, but in the King of kings.” Jesus Christ.



*I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; From God, internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take full credit for these writings since there are many. I did not in some cases keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments, writings and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this writing. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things. This article as well as many other messages can be found at [www.deweyfox.com](http://www.deweyfox.com) and click on Christianity.*

