

GAMBLING

*the act of playing for stakes in the hope of winning
(including the payment of a price for a chance to win a prize) ¹*

Why do people like to gamble?

1 Timothy 6 ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Does the Bible say anything specific about gambling?

In many places, the Bible talks about the casting of lots. What was casting lots and why was it done? How “accurate” was this method for making decisions?

Casting Lots: making a chance decision by using lots (straws or pebbles etc.) that are thrown or drawn

“According to Jewish historian, Josephus, the Urim consisted of two sardonyx stones, each contained in a pouch in the Breastplate worn by the High Priest. One of the two stones shined brightly when God was present (or involved). The main obvious reason for casting lots was the impartiality of a certain decision. No one could argue that the decision was the result of politics, nepotism, favoritism, etc. What is particularly significant is the fact that, in ancient Israel, the High Priest did use this method for important, uncertain decisions. It amounted to consulting God for the answer.”

Proverbs 16 ³³The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

“The last recorded case in Scripture is on Acts 1:24-26, when the apostles asked God’ decision of a choice between two men to replace Judas, through the casting of lots.”²

Acts 1 ²⁵ to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Other passages: Leviticus 16:7; Joshua 18:5; Matthew 27:35; I Samuel 14:41

- Current major forms of gambling: Lottery, card games, slot machines, horse and dog racing, & sports.

Are there moral differences between these types of gambling? (Is there a difference between games of skill versus chance?) **Example: slot machines: purely chance based on odds programmed by casino. Poker: some chance but also a lot of skill involved.**

The state says the lottery is legal and helps fund education...so what’s the problem?

- Do some poor/middle class people look to the lottery as the best chance they have of financial independence?
- What does the lottery system say about hard work?

If I won the lottery, is that God’s blessing, or just the 1 in 150,000,000 odds at work?

“Triplet, a regular lottery player, said the ticket was one of five he bought at a convenience store not far from his Winchester home. He saw the winning numbers on television the morning after the Feb. 20 drawing in the multi-state Mega Millions lottery. He told his wife: “Sweetheart, I’ve got those numbers.” “Then she got down on her knees and thanked the Lord,” he said in a statement.”³

Is it right to pray to God for us to win something?

- What does God say about not tempting Him? Does this apply to gambling?

Matthew 4 ⁶and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: “He shall give His angels charge over you,” and, “In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.”⁷ Jesus said to him, “It is written again, “You shall not tempt the LORD your God.”⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

Do we pretend to know or have some hint on the future when gambling?

Matthew 5 ³⁴But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No.” For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Other random questions:

Can I look at gambling as a form of entertainment?

Is gambling addictive and why?

Why is Las Vegas referred to as “sin city?” – Should this be telling us something?

Are NCAA Final 4 pools ok to participate in?

How is the stock market different from gambling?

Should Christians be involved in gambling any form?

¹ <http://www.hyperdictionary.com/dictionary/gambling>

² <http://www.biblestudy.org/question/castlots.html>

³ Retired Truck Driver Claims \$239M Jackpot – Yahoo News - Associated Press 04/01/2004



Leviticus 16 ⁷He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. ⁸Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat. ⁹And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the LORD's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering.

Joshua 18 ⁵And they shall divide it into seven parts. Judah shall remain in their territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall remain in their territory on the north. ⁶You shall therefore survey the land in seven parts and bring the survey here to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD our God. ⁷But the Levites have no part among you, for the priesthood of the LORD is their inheritance. And Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan on the east, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them."

1 Samuel 14 ⁴¹Therefore Saul said to the LORD God of Israel, "Give a perfect lot."^[1] So Saul and Jonathan were taken, but the people escaped. ⁴²And Saul said, "Cast lots between my son Jonathan and me." So Jonathan was taken. ⁴³Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done."

And Jonathan told him, and said, "I only tasted a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand. So now I must die!"

Matthew 27 ³⁵Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots,^[1] that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."

Acts 1 ²⁵ to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

²⁶And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.