

Invest Instead of Gambling

2 January 2019 – Proverbs 15:27 – Add to Faith – Scott Childs

A government report in 2015 states that 39% of Australian adults gamble. A 2017 report states that over 24b dollars is spent on gambling yearly in Australia. In another report we read that Australia fritters away more money per person gambling than any other country.

“Gambling is an artificially created game of chance, completely separated from all the vital and constructive risks of living.” Rodney Reyman

Common gambling includes sports betting, race betting, personal betting, lotto, instant scratch tickets, poker, casinos, and bingo.

L.M. Starkey Jr. has made the following observation: "Life does have its normal risks which one must accept with faith and courage. These normal risks are in no sense equivalent to the risks in the game of chance. Gambling devises artificial risks in hope of excessive gain far beyond what the investment of time, money, or skill would justify. In gambling, the chance is unrelated to any creative effort called for by the farmer or the stockbroker in the responsible investment of his mental, monetary and physical funds."

The Bible does not mention gambling by name, but gambling does violate many clear Bible principles.

1. What Bible principles do the following verses teach?

- a. Pr 15:27 – Being greedy of gain will trouble your home.
- b. Pr 23:4 – We should not labour to be rich.
- c. 1Ti 6:10 – Loving money is the root of all evil and it will bring us many sorrows.

2. What does God say about coveting?

- a. Ex 20:17 – God commands us not to covet anything
- b. Lu 12:15 – Beware of covetousness because life consist of more than what we have.
- c. Col 3:5 – Covetousness is listed with very bad sins and God said we must mortify or kill it.

- d. Heb 13:5 – God commands that we not be covetous and that we be content with what we have. Christ is all we need.
3. **What does God teach us about being content?**
- a. Pr 15:16 – It is better to have little and to fear the Lord or trust Him than to have plenty with problems.
- b. 1Ti 6:6 – Being godly (reflecting God in our life) and being content with God’s supply is great gain.
- c. 1Ti 6:7 – We were born with nothing and when we die, we will take nothing with us.
- d. 1Ti 6:8 – As long as we have food and clothing we should be content. Those are the essentials of life.
- e. 1Ti 6:9 – Those who will be rich (that is their ambition) they will fall into temptation and snares or traps in life.
4. **How do the following verses apply to gambling?**
- a. Pr 13:11 – Gain without work will diminish but gain by work will increase.
- b. Pr 22:16 – Gambling is giving to the rich. It is not a sure investment. It is a certain loss most of the time.
- c. Pr 28:22– Those who rush to get rich have an evil goal and they do not consider that it will lead to poverty.
5. **What do the following verses say about saving for the future?**
- a. Ge 41:35 – Joseph wisely stored up food for the future when it would be lacking, we should do the same.
- b. Pr 13:22 – It is wise to save for our children rather than wasting our money on wasteful things.
- c. Pr 21:20 – Wise people store up surplus rather than spending all that they have like a foolish person.
- d. Mt 6:20 – Christians ought to lay up treasures in heaven where they will never lose value or be stolen.
- e. Lu 12:16-21 – The rich fool stored up plenty in this life but he made no preparations for eternity.
- f. Joh 6:12 – After Jesus fed the multitudes with miracle bread, He told the disciples to collect the fragments to avoid waste.
- g. 2Co 12:14 – Parents should lay up an inheritance for their children if they are able.

6. **What general principles from the following verses can apply to money matters?**

- a. Ps 62:10 – If our riches do increase, we must not set our heart upon them.
- b. Pr 28:19 – Working is the right way to get what we need. Following the ways of vain people will lead to poverty.
- c. 1Co 10:31 – All that we do in life, including our spending ought to be done for God’s glory.
- d. Col 3:1-2 – We ought to focus on things that will last for eternity rather than seeking materialism.
- e. 2Th 3:10 – A person who refuses to work should not eat.

7. **Other verses to ponder include:**

- a. Php 4:8
- b. Eph 4:28
- c. Eph 2:10
- d. 1Th 5:21-22
- e. Mt 7:17
- f. Mt 7:12
- g. Pr 23:17

- Gambling also has a tendency toward addiction. As in the case of alcoholism and drug addiction, compulsive gamblers are dominated to the extent that they risk not only money, but everything meaningful in life. They have lost control of themselves. This condition is contrary to the teaching of the Scriptures which point out that Christians are not to be enslaved to anything (I Corinthians 6:12). One of the characteristics of the life controlled by the Holy Spirit is self-control (Galatians 5:23). *A Biblical Perspective on Gambling, Dave Brink*
- For more good information on this subject read the chapter "Is Gambling Wrong?" in Larry Burkett’s book ***Using Your Money Wisely***.