

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Is Gambling a Sin?

By Derek Long

Gambling is something which it appears more and more people are engaging in as society becomes more and more tolerant or approving of that activity. One form of gambling which seems to be growing in popularity is places where people go to gamble online. Gambling is also popular in such forms as the lottery, raffles, etc. There are also people who go on vacations or travel to places where there are casinos in order to engage in gambling. What does the Bible teach about the practice of gambling? Does God approve of gambling or condemn it?

The question of whether God approves of or condemns gambling is a question which is best answered by looking at various Bible principles and seeing how they relate to the practice of gambling. Here are some Bible principles which I think relate to the topic of gambling:

1. The Bible condemns covetousness and commands contentment. Covetousness is listed as sinful many times in the New Testament (Mark 7:21-23; Luke 12:15; Romans 1:28-32; Ephesians 5:3-5; Colossians 3:5). The love of money is something which we are warned to avoid and is something which is sinful (1 Timothy 6:9-10; 2 Timothy

3:2). As far as I can tell, one of the main reasons people get into the practice of gambling is because they love money and want more of it. A person who gambles is willing to risk his own money for the chance to gain the money of someone else without being willing to provide a proper exchange for the money which he is obtaining. I do not see how a person who is content, which is what we ought to be instead of being covetous (Hebrews 13:5), is going to be engaging in the act of gambling. The Bible teaches us to be content (Philippians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 6:6-8). If a person struggles with covetousness and perhaps it manifests itself by them gambling, they would be helped to overcome this sin by learning to have contentment.

2. The Bible teaches there are appropriate ways of gaining material goods and inappropriate ways of obtaining material goods. Most people in our society recognize it is wrong to gain material goods by stealing them from someone else (Ephesians 4:28). The Bible though teaches us appropriate ways to gain material possessions. The Bible authorizes us to obtain material possessions through working and being paid or obtaining some sort of good (Ephesians 4:28). The Bible authorizes us to obtain material possessions through gifts which others may give us (Matthew 2:11). The Bible authorizes us to obtain material possessions through investing money (Matthew 25:27). The Bible does not authorize us to gain material possessions through wagering money in a game of chance in the hopes of taking what someone else is wagering to attempt to get your money.
3. The Bible teaches us to treat others the way we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12). In gambling, a person is trying to

take someone else's money but does not want them to take your money. As a result, gambling violates the principle of treating others as we want to be treated.

4. Gambling demonstrates poor stewardship of the blessings God has given us. God has given instructions on things we should use our money upon in His word. Gambling is not a good use of one's money especially considering that statistically you are almost guaranteed to lose.
5. Gambling is addictive. 1 Corinthians 6:12 teaches us not to be brought under the power of anything even if it is something lawful in and of itself. Gambling, as we have already illustrated, is not something lawful. Therefore, how much more should we not be brought under the power of it? If a person does not believe gambling is addictive, then why do organizations such as gamblers anonymous exist? The existence of such organizations should teach us gambling is addictive like alcohol, drugs, etc. When one wins during the process of gambling, the pleasure centers in one's brain are activated. As a result, people want to go back to gambling to get that feeling again. Such enslaves many people to a practice which is not good for them in this life or in the life to come.

Let's recognize these and perhaps other dangers associated with gambling and seek to avoid it!