

**Filthy Lucre**  
**Titus 1:7**  
**By Russ Earl**

Thesis: I want to show the sin caused by gambling.

Intro:

1. What's the harm in a little bet? Right?
2. What IS gambling?
3. What does the world say about gambling?
4. What does the bible say about gambling? How does it apply to us today?

I. What is gambling?

A. How do we define the term?

1. "wagering money or something of material value on an event with an uncertain outcome with the primary intent of winning additional money and/or material goods".
  - Typically the outcome of the wager is evident within a short period of time.
2. Wager - an agreement between two people that whoever loses a bet on an uncertain outcome will pay the other a specific amount or another form of compensation.
3. The term "**filthy lucre**" is sometimes defined as "shameful gain" (Webster dictionary); some Bible versions (NKJV) translate this term simply as "not greedy for money". Some of the force behind this idea seems to be lost when you leave out the word "filthy".

B. How does one put it into biblical terms? (1 Tim 3:3-NKJV)

1. It would be classified as covetousness, and being a lover of money rather than a lover of God.
2. A game that is played where money can be made or lost.
3. Three Factors Involved -
  - a. The lure of easily gained money or merchandise.
  - b. A prize to be acquired primarily by chance.
  - c. A payment of money being required in order to be involved in the activity.

II. What does the world say about gambling?

A. What does the world say gambling is?

- a. "It's an innocent activity where no one gets hurt."
  - Except you and your family.
- b. "It will help schools"

- Sinful money benefits schools?

c. "People should be able to engage in any entertainment they choose."

- Drug abuse and prostitution are also entertainments some people enjoy. Does this make them right?

2. Just a past time?

We should not shrug it off as an "innocent pastime", and seek to justify it on the idea that "everybody takes chances" (by buying stocks, crossing streets, or planting crops, etc.)

Gambling is more than merely taking a chance; it is making a chance of winning the losses of others. Gambling winnings only occur on behalf of gambling losses! Even though the losers may have been willing in the idea, it amounts to robbery by consent.

B. What forms of gambling are there?

1. Lotteries, Casinos, Sports Betting, Poker/Dice, Raffles; in a nutshell things that bring about monetary gain in a dishonest, near theft by consent type of way.

2. Gambling can be any type of game or event where there is a game of chance involved for monetary gain.

C. Is there a "gray" area in gambling?

1. Some say it's ok, so long as the amount lost doesn't hurt that beyond what one can endure?

2. Does this apply to other areas too? (drinking, smoking, drugs etc)

3. In order to be consistent it would have to apply.

D. Are we gambling and not knowing it?

1. I have heard one defense that it's like buying a house, that's taking a chance also.

- Do we gamble in the same sense when we buy a car, or take a drive? If gambling is simply defined as chance then, we gamble every day. Just by going to services we gamble and take the chance that we may or may not get into an automobile accident. Such arguments do not adequately defend gambling and are inconsistent.

2. Gambling is an act that one knowingly enters into with the chance to win money that belongs to someone else. In brief, it's like stealing with permission.

E. Gambling is morally wrong because it violates the law of labor and exchange. The Bible teaches us to earn our bread by the "sweat of our faces" (Genesis 3:19), to "labor with our hands" (Ephesians 4:28). Our Lord tells us what the purpose of our "laboring" is (Acts 20:35).

## Laws Of Transferring Property

There are but three legitimate means of transferring property:

- 1) The law of labor.
- 2) The law of exchange, where a commodity is exchanged for its value in money or goods.
- 3) The law of love, where money is given without any expectation or desire for return.

- If we think we need more money, then we should earn it honestly with a job. Not with games of chance! (**Eph 4:28**)

### III. What does the bible say about gambling? How does it apply to us today?

#### A. How does the bible handle gambling?

1. Gambling is done out of the love of money. One enters such events to win money; why else would someone take the risk.
2. For that reason gambling is defined by the Bible as covetousness, love of money, greed, and idolatry.
  - a. Covetousness can cause one to become focused on getting another persons goods or money. Desiring what they have and wishing it to be their own. (**Lk 12:15**)
  - b. Its love of money or greediness. Why else would a person want to have money wagered, except to win the money from them? (**1 Tim 6:10, Col 3:5**)
  - c. Its idolatry because that person puts the desire to win money about God and doing so, makes God #2.

#### B. What are "lots"? How do they pertain to gambling?

1. Lots - are pieces of wood or bits with names or numbers on them.
2. They were used to decide numerous things in the O.T and N.T both.
3. They decided who got what land, who received the robe of Christ and who would replace Judas just to name a few.
4. The idea of casting lots is used about 18 times in the O.T. and N.T. both.

#### C. Do we have an example of gambling?

1. Is there an example of gambling in the bible? In the O.T.....no; the N.T.....no!?
2. When looking at authority there are certain guidelines that must be considered.

3. Those guidelines are:
    - a. Is there a direct command to do so? - where there is silence there cannot be liberty to go beyond - correct?
    - b. Is there an approved example? Where someone who was approved of God or right in the sight of God, did they gamble? Where they rebuked for it? We have no record of such, only the decision making of casting lots.
    - c. Is there a time when a comment is made to a person gambling and being approved of it?
  4. If there is none of these then what do we conclude about what the Bible says about gambling?
  5. Is it approved or not? Is it condoned or are such things or principals of it condemned!?
- D. Is there a time of when it's ok?
1. There are those who change their views spiritually because of a certain relative or friend is involved in that situation that would put them in sin. Do we condone gambling for the same reason, because our friends do it?
  2. Does the amount or the occasion, or the event make gambling ok? Does the moderation (the amount of money) or the area (the place we're at), change wrong to right?
- E. We should next consider the qualifications of an elder.
1. When we examine the third chapter of 1 Timothy and first chapter of Titus we see teachings in each.
    - a. **1 Timothy 3:3** "not greedy for ill gain" or "not covetous"
    - b. **1 Tim 3:8** "not greedy for ill gain"
    - c. **Titus 1:7** "as a steward of God" and "not greedy for ill gain"
    - d. During these writings its referring to elders and deacons, would not the same apply for us?

Conc:

A. Is gambling a sin?

1. If the bible teaches such principles that go against gambling? Is it sin?
2. If its sin? Then would it cause one to lose their soul for it?

B. What do I do about it?

1. We must decide we will not live in error.
2. We must decide living for the right is better than living to make more money

C. What about the others who bet?

1. We must warn them of such things. We must hold to what the bible says on such matters regardless of what others use to try and condone their actions.
2. Sin is sin all the time.
3. The place, the amount and the person(s) doesn't change that fact.  
- **Luke 16:14** "being lovers of money they ridiculed him"

Invitation