



## Managing GOD's Money

**T**he Concise Oxford Dictionary defines *gamble* as *to take great risks in the hope of substantial gain, and a risky undertaking or attempt*. When you gamble you risk funds you may or may not have to get more.

Gambling is a major growth industry in Canada. Between 1993 and 2003, gambling industries were the fastest growing industries in Canada. Governments promote it and have sold successfully the lie that society needs revenues from gambling.

Sadly, most folks have bought this lie. Though they will agree there is only one primary income source—their work, either self-employed or other, people in several homes in North America gamble regularly on lotteries, football games, horse racing, and other events hoping to raise their incomes.

A 2003 Barna Research Group study reported 61% of Americans believed gambling is morally acceptable. Even more disturbing are these findings from a 2002 Barna Research study:

**The three behaviors associated with finances and spending choices - boycotting products, buying lottery tickets, and gambling - produced no differences between the churched and unchurched.**

**Source: Barna Research Group, Ventura, California  
[www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org).**

According to Statistics Canada, in 2002 an estimated 18.9 million Canadians spent \$ 11.3 billion dollars on all gambling forms—four times more than the average Canadian gambled 10 years earlier. Many of these folks dream of winning enough to “live happily ever after”. But the few who win, don’t find the happiness they seek.

This piece from Gaming Magazine headed, “**\$325 Million: Big Win, Big Problems?**” is from a study dispelling the myth money buys happiness:

**The bad news is that you probably won't win tonight's Big Game lottery. The good news is that you may be better off if you don't. Lottery winners typically are no happier swimming in money than when they were broke.**

**Source: Gaming Magazine 17 April 2002**

People are chasing money but gaining more debt, more unhappiness. Research by Kennon Sheldon a psychologist at the University of Missouri, found that “people who say money is most important to them are (the unhappiest).”

Many churches and Christian charities encourage gambling as part of fund raising. They too have bought the lie that if gambling proceeds will serve a good

cause, gambling is acceptable. So, under the guise they need funds, usually for bricks and mortar; some churches and Christian charities sell lottery tickets rather than go to God to seek His direction. In turn, church folks buy these lottery tickets trying to win, rather than asking God to show them how to share His money they manage.

These churches and charities that sell lottery tickets don't realize that when they have no funds it could be God telling them to look to Him, to depend on Him, and perhaps to change **their** plans to **His**!

Folks, gambling displaces God as supplier of needs, transfers dependency from God to the hope of winning, and waste God's money. Apostle Paul says it well in 1 Timothy 6:9:

**People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. --- 1 Timothy 6:9**

When you gamble you risk losing what you stake trying to win more; you show that you will not consult God, not depend on Him, but you will divert His money from Kingdom work. **Proverbs 28:22** cautions:

**"A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth and does not know that want will come upon him." --- Proverbs 28:22**

Some folks will say come on Michel, loosen up, don't you understand; I don't want to get rich I just want to have some fun! Don't you see: gambling is my entertainment! Besides I am spending only a dollar each time.

Next time I will address this. Meanwhile, do you know if you saved \$ 30 per month or \$ 1.00 each day for 18 years it would grow to over \$ 10,000? This could be a good base for your children's higher education!

God bless and remember Jesus loves you.