

Biblical Principles To Gain Wealth

1. Industry

Before the fall, God commanded man to work (Genesis 2:15). After the fall, He informed him, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

The New Testament confirms this, stating: ".....If any will not work, neither should he eat." II Thessalonians 3:10.

2. Investment

The parable of the talents teaches that we are to invest what God gives us, expecting a return (profit). Matthew 25:14-30.

3. Inheritance

Godly parents leave an inheritance to their children (Proverbs 13:22). A spiritual inheritance is more important than a financial inheritance. Proverbs 22:1.

Any means of gaining wealth - other than industry, investment, or inheritance - is not acceptable to God. "He that oppresses [takes advantage] the poor to increase his riches,shall surely come to want." Proverbs 22:16

Riches obtained unlawfully will not remain:

"Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward the heaven." Proverbs 23:5.

It is not a sin to be rich. It is a sin to love money or put trust in riches.

"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." I Timothy 6:9-10.

Biblical Principles Against Gambling

Love of Neighbor

Jesus commanded "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Mark 12:31). Gambling predicates on the loss, pain, and suffering of others. For one to win at gambling, others must lose. For many, the ramification of their loss is profound. Families touched by gambling addiction are at great risk for problems such as: divorce, bankruptcy, child abuse, domestic violence, crime, and suicide. These problems will continue to grow as gambling expands.

"Therefore, all things whatever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 7:12.

See Luke 6:31; 10:5-37; Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3-4; and Hebrews 13:1-2.

Work Ethic

From the very beginning, work has been a part of God's design for mankind. We are to invest time and energy into labors that supply our families' needs (Proverbs 31, II Thessalonians 3:10, and I Timothy 5:8). We are to share with others the funds that God has enabled us to earn (Ephesians 4:28). Scripture encourages industriousness and

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admonishes against slothfulness. Gambling advertising frequently belittles hard work and diligence.

See Genesis 2:15; Exodus 20:9; Proverbs 12:11; 13:4; 20:4; 21:25.

Exploiting the poor

Gambling preys on the desperation of the disadvantaged. The National Gambling Impact Study Commission found that those with the lowest incomes spend more on lottery tickets than any other income group. High school dropouts spend four times as much as college graduates. The Scriptures exhort us to protect the poor and disadvantaged and never take advantage of their plight.

See Proverbs 14:21; 22:16; Isaiah 3:14-15; Amos 5:11-12; Zechariah 7:10.

Deception

Legal gambling operations are steeped in deceit. Lottery officials conceal or misstate odds. To hide the passage of time, casinos do not have clocks or windows. Slot machines, that tease players into believing they will win the big one, are programmed in favor of the casino.

See Psalm 26:4; 55:23; 101:7; Proverbs 12:20; 14:8; 24:28; and Romans 1:29.

Coveting

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motivation for gambling is greed, gambling is a violation of this commandment. The gambler hopes to "get rich quick". Rather than setting our hearts upon earth's riches, we should set them on treasure in heaven. I Timothy 6 warns against the "love of money" and reminds us to be content.

See Proverbs 15:27; Matthew 6:31; Luke 12:15; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5; and Hebrews 13:5.

Stewardship

Christians are responsible before God for how they invest the resources He entrusts to them. The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 explains this. In many cases, one gambles money that they should spend to provide for their family or to advance a worthy cause. In all cases, gambling is an unwise investment, with an almost certain, negative return. Gambling invests in an industry that destroys lives.

See Genesis 1:26; Romans 14:12; I Corinthians 4:2; II Corinthians 5:10; and Colossians 3:17.

The Worst Bet of All

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Mark 8:36

There are four things that you should know about eternal life:

1. *"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* Romans 3:23

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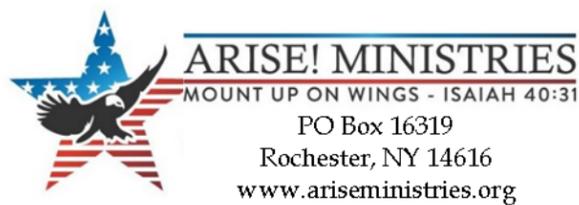
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2. *"For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* Romans 6:23

3. *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:8

4. *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* Romans 10:13

Reject Jesus Christ as your Savior and you will have made the worst bet of your life- and the penalty will be the loss of your eternal soul! God loves you and desires to save you, but you must receive him. My friend, it is your decision. I urge you to receive Jesus Christ today.



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