

GENERATION NOW

The Luck of a fool

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Gambling. Luck. Horoscopes. Fortunes. Lottery. Superstitions. Most often when people gamble it is because they become addicted to the love of money. A simple game can become a sin when it takes over our minds and hearts and leads us down a road of never being satisfied. Study the following Bible verses about gambling and see why God encourages us to stay away from it. **(Timothy 6:10)** For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. **(Deuteronomy 8:18)** Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath. **(Ecclesiastes 5:10)** Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! **(Hebrews 13:5)** Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." **(Matthew 6:24)** "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

(Proverbs 13:11) says, "Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow." God is sovereign and will provide for the needs of the church through honest means. Would God be honored by receiving donated drug money or money stolen in a bank robbery? Of course not. Neither does God need or want money that was "stolen" from the poor in the temptation for riches.

What is one of the reasons that people gamble and play the lottery?

They covet money, which they hope to make in a quick and easy way. As we saw earlier in (1 Timothy 6:10) declares that "the love of money is the root of all evil." Therefore, the enticement of gambling and playing the lottery comes under these texts. But there is more. God has given to each person certain talents, which includes time, money, and influence. God is going to have each person give an account of how their talents were used. If talents are wasted and dissipated, often the indulgent ones are not the only ones who pay the price. Families often must go without basic necessities because of one member's addiction.

The word 'luck' is very much a part of our everyday conversation.

Christian or not, we find ourselves wishing others and ourselves success in the future. "Good luck on your job interview." "I got lucky today with this weather." Obviously, the concept of luck is applied in a wide spectrum of circumstances from trivial statements to life-altering events, but is wishing luck contrary to what we believe as Christians? Let's start by defining the word 'luck'. Dictionary.com defines it as 'good fortune; advantage or success, considered as the result of chance'. There is nothing wrong with hoping for success in the future—after all, we're all uncertain about future events, good or bad. But when we believe in luck, we are implying that future successful events happen randomly as a result of chance. The problem for Christians is, we can't believe in a God who is in control of our future all the time, while also believing that events happen randomly or that God himself is subject to chance and gets lucky.

There are numerous verses that affirm that God is directly in control of the events of our lives. **(Proverbs 16:33)** reads, "The Lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord." Casting a lot may seem random but even that outcome is from the Lord. **(Isaiah 46:10)** describes a God who declares the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done. **(Psalm 139:16)** talks about a God who has a book with all the days of our lives written in it before any of them came to pass. And so, according to the Bible, events in our lives don't happen randomly. They are all part of God's plan. #Drake

If we're honest, most of our worries for the future are not about the good things that are going to happen to us but about the bad things. But the good news for Christians is, the bad things work out to be good at the end! That's exactly what **(Romans 8:28)** says: "All things (good and bad) work together for good to those who love God". It's not the worst thing in the world to wish someone luck, but perhaps moving forward we should wish him or her 'all the best!' next time and pray for them instead.

How many of us check our Zodiac signs and horiscopes regularly?

The Bible has many references to the stars and to the fact that God created constellations. The Bible tells us in **(Genesis 1:14)** that the sun, moon and stars were given to us as "*signs*" and "*seasons*" which means they are given to us to use to measure time. The stars were used as a memorial to Abraham so that every time he looked at the night sky he was reminded of God's promise **(Genesis 15:5)**. In **Isaiah 13**, **Joel 3** and **Matthew 26** we're told of astronomical events that will accompany the final judgment of the earth. However, there is no indication in God's Word that the constellations have any hidden meaning at all. Astrology is a belief that wisdom comes from the stars. Our wisdom comes from God alone

(James 1:5) If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. **(Deuteronomy 18:9-13)** When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, be very careful not to imitate the detestable customs of the nations living there. **10** For example, never sacrifice your son or daughter as a burnt offering. And do not let your people practice fortune-telling, or use sorcery, or interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, **11** or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. **12** Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord. It is because the other nations have done these detestable things that the Lord your God will drive them out ahead of you. **13** But you must be blameless before the Lord your God.

The Bible teaches that we should have nothing to do with cult practices, including [horoscopes and astrology]. Many may not think them this way – but they all involve mystical attempts to foretell the future (which the Bible rejects).

(Isaiah 47:13-14) Isaiah mocks those who choose astrology over God.

"Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you."