Lottery

Intro: With the historic Powerball Lottery having taken place that would award over 1.5 Billion dollars, I thought it would be good to take a look at the lottery.

I. Scripturally Obtaining Money
   A. Law of labor
      1. Eph. 4:28 “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”
      2. 1 The. 4:11 “And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;”
      3. 2 The. 3:10, 12 “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.... Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”
   B. Law of exchange
      1. This is the buying and selling of goods.
      2. Jam. 4:13 “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain.”
   C. Law of loan
      1. One has something (good, money, etc.) which someone else needs and pays a fee for the use of it without buying it.
      2. Mat. 25:27 “Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.”
   D. Law of love
      1. A gift given without any expectation of something in return.
      2. Acts 20:35 “I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

II. Gambling And The Lottery
   A. The Bible does not specifically mention gambling
      1. It sets forth principles by which we are to live.
      2. Gambling violates many of those principles.
   B. It violates how we are to obtain money.
   C. It violates faithful stewardship
      1. A steward is one who manages the goods of someone else.
      2. God owns all things.
      3. We are to be faithful in taking care of God’s goods; 1 Cor. 4:1-2 “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”
   D. It violates the golden rule and our obligation to provide things honest.
      1. Mat. 7:12 “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”
      2. Rom. 12:17 “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.”
3. One person winning is based upon the other people losing.

**E. Gambling is highly addictive.**

1. 1 Cor. 6:12 “12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”
2. God demands us to be temperate (self-controlled);
   a. Gal. 5:22-23 “22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
   b. Being addicted to something removes our self-control (at least in that area).

**F. It is a frequent companion with other vices**

1. 1 Thes. 5:22 “22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.”
2. Stealing, drugs, prostitution, suicide, are associated with gambling.
   a. William Webster, former director of the FBI stated in 1985, “We know of no situation in which legalized gambling was in place where we did not eventually have organized crime.”
   b. Compulsive gamblers are responsible for 17% of wife abuse; 13% of child abuse; 40% of all white-collar crimes. 86% admit committing felony crimes while pursuing gambling.

**G. Gambling destroys homes**

1. 1 Tim. 5:8 “8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”
2. When people gamble away their money, it then takes away the necessities of life from his family.
3. 43% of divorced women in Gamblers Anonymous identified gambling as a major factor in the failure of their marriages.

**H. It is the enemy of mental peace**

1. We have peace through Christ; Phi. 4:7 “7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
2. Gambling brings fear and anxiety and thus the suicide rate is very high.

**I. It sets a bad example**

1. 1 Tim. 4:12 “12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
2. It will lead others to engage in this sinful activity.

**Conclusion:** Even with the glitz of becoming a billionaire or only winning a few dollars, the lottery is sinful and no Christian should ever engage in it.