



# Present Day Idols: The worship of the Lottery

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In this short book, we are going to look at the lottery and how people idolize the lottery. Just so we have a working knowledge of idolatry, let's look at what an idol is:

With that being said, an **idol** is defined as:

noun

1. a material object, esp a carved image, that is worshipped as a god
2. Christianity Judaism any being (other than the one God) to which divine honour is paid
3. a person who is revered, admired, or highly loved

We also have the origin of this word, so let's take a look at it here:

- mid-13c., "image of a deity as an object of (pagan) worship,"
- from Old French *idole* "idol, graven image, pagan god,"
- from Late Latin *idolum* "image (mental or physical), form," used in Church Latin for "false god,"
- from Greek *eidolon* "appearance, reflection in water or a mirror," later "mental image, apparition, phantom," also "material image, statue," from *eidōs* "form" (see -oid).
- Figurative sense of "something idolized" is first recorded 1560s (in Middle English the figurative sense was "someone who is false or untrustworthy"). Meaning "a person so adored" is from 1590s.

From the origins of the word, you see the words 'pagan', 'false god', 'statue', so we can correctly infer that an idol is NOT a good thing that a Christian should be looking at or dealing with. The Lord has given strict instructions about idols as you can see in scripture here:

**Leviticus 26:1** - Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

**Deuteronomy 5:9** - Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,

The devil knows this, so he sets up idols so the worship will go to HIM, as this is what he wanted from the time when iniquity was found in him. Worship means that much to the devil, and he will do anything he can to get those creations of the Lord to give HIM their worship.

So what is **worship**?

**Worship** is a public show of deep respect and devotion towards someone or something that you are in awe of/have full admiration for that you show profound, intense love and honour to in recognition of the qualities of holiness, excellence and wisdom.



In this book, we are going to take a look at the Lottery System that many people play all over the world. What is it about the Lottery that people are so enamoured with? Let's define what the Lottery is and then we can go into why people dream about hitting the lottery. From Wikipedia, we are looking at Mega-millions:

**Mega Millions** (which began as The Big Game in 1996 and renamed, temporarily, to The Big Game Mega Millions six years later) **is an American multi-jurisdictional lottery game; it is offered in 44 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.** The first (The Big Game) Mega Millions drawing was in 2002; see below. (What is now Mega Millions initially was offered in six states; the logo for all versions of the game following the retiring of The Big Game name featured a gold-colored ball with six stars to represent the game's initial membership.)

Mega Millions is drawn at 11 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday and Friday evenings, including holidays. Mega Millions is administered by a consortium of its 12 original

lotteries; the drawings are held at the studios of WSB-TV in Atlanta, Georgia, supervised by the Georgia Lottery.

Under the current version's regulations (which began October 28, 2017 with the first drawing October 31) for Mega Millions, the minimum Mega Millions advertised jackpot is \$40 million, paid in 30 graduated yearly installments, increasing 5 percent each year (unless the cash option is chosen; see below for differences by lotteries on cash/annuity choice regulations.) The jackpot increases when there is no top-prize winner (see below for information on how the Mega Millions jackpot is funded).

Reflecting common practice among American lotteries, the jackpot is advertised as a nominal value of annual installments. A cash value option (the usual choice), when chosen by a jackpot winner, pays the approximate present value of the installments. Mega Millions' previous format began on October 19, 2013; its first drawing was three days later. The current version of Mega Millions uses a 5/70 (for the white balls) plus 1/25 (for the "Mega Ball") double matrix to select its winning numbers.

Each game costs \$2. Of the 46 Mega Millions jurisdictions, all but California offer an option, called Megaplier (plays with the Megaplier are \$3 each) where non-jackpot prizes are multiplied by 2, 3, 4, or 5. The Megaplier was made available to all Mega Millions jurisdictions in January 2011; it began as an option available only in Texas. Seven of the game's members offer a "Just the Jackpot" option, in which two plays cost \$3 and only the jackpot can be won.

The largest jackpot (in which the jackpot was won) in Mega Millions history was \$1.537 billion, for the October 23, 2018 drawing, in which there was one winning jackpot ticket, sold in South Carolina.



As you can see, there is a chance that people could get millions of dollars if they hit the correct numbers. Now, I really do not care about these types of games because Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ does NOT agree with letting his followers of Christ depending on a gambling game to get money. The Lord Jesus Christ can provide for ALL of his followers, and depending on a Lotto-type game is a slap in His face.

However, many people who profess to be 'Christian' are participants in these types of games, and of course, they NEVER win any of the big money. This sort of mindset is the idolatry that the Lord is NOT happy about, and we are going to take a closer look at this mindset in the book.



The question that you may be asking is this – why is the Lord Jesus Christ so against gaming? What is \$2? You can have a little fun with this and no one is hurt.

It is not the games that are the problem; it is the Spirit of the games that is the problem.

As you know, like most addictions, people can be hooked and they will play until they are broke. You have heard the stories about the people who live in gambling towns who just get paid and then go to a casino and lose all of the rent and food money gambling. How is that possible?

It is the spirit of the gambling is the problem, and even putting some money down on a \$2 Mega-Millions ticket will draw you into the web of gambling. THIS is the issue, and not the game.

Now, the Lord Jesus Christ knows that the games that people play are rigged so the house will almost always win. Yeah, they will break off a few hundred here and there to keep you hooked on the gambling; however, the majority of the money will go to the house, and then into someone's pocket.

People like to gamble, Christian, and it can get out of hand.



Again, **I could care less if you want to gamble, and if you want to gamble, have fun.** I am not telling you to do anything; I am just pointing out that there is a component to gambling that can trip you up and could cost you your life if you get in with the wrong people.

Where the professing Christian gets into trouble is **to imagine what they are going to do with all of that money when they win the lottery or the Mega-Millions.** Since we know that the house is going to win the majority of the money, why are we playing this? How many Christians do you know that have won BIG money playing these games?

When the people start to dream about what they are going to do with the money **- THAT is the idolatry.** Even though the

love of money is the root of all evil, it is the imaginations that are causing many to take their eyes off of the Lord Jesus Christ and put their mind and hopes on the lottery they are playing.



Like crack cocaine, you can get addicted to the thrill and the rush of gambling. So what does the Bible have to say about gaming and gambling? There are five areas that the bible does address gaming and gambling that we will discuss.



#### Area #1:

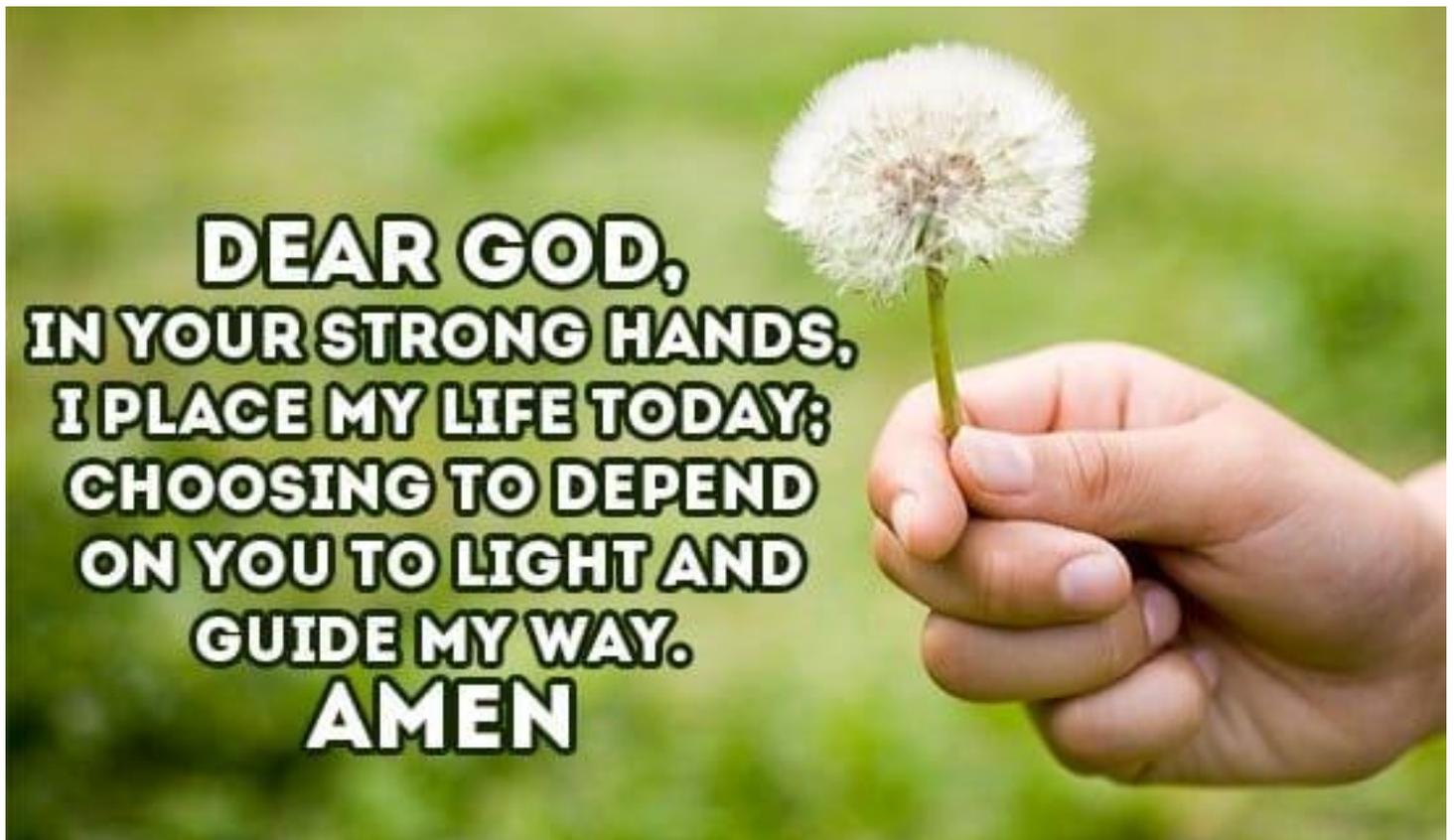
**The Lottery will impact your stewardship of the money the Lord has given you to use for you, your household or your family.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is very serious about stewardship and He teaches all of His followers to be wise with the resources that He provides for them, as you can see in scripture here:

**Luke 12:42** - And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

As you can see in this scripture, the faithful and wise steward with the Lord's goods and money is then trusted to be ruler all that the Lord has. Notice that the good steward is also blessed as the servant of the Lord. What the Lord gives you, Christian, you are going to have to give an account for what you did with the resources.

Will the Lord say '**Behold, my good and faithful servant**', or is he going to say '**away from me, you wicked and slothful servant**'? If you gamble with the resources that you have been given, you are NOT a wise steward of what you have been given.



**Area #2:**



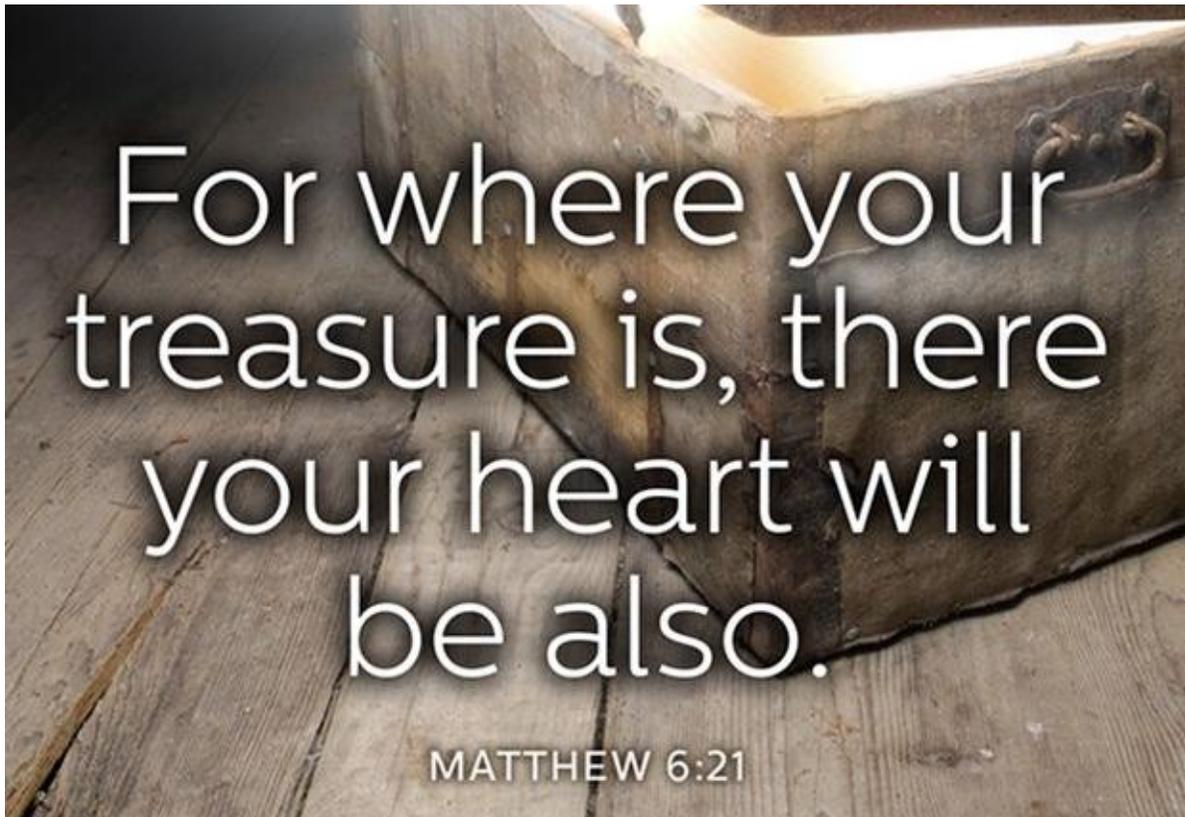
**The Lottery will impact your dependence on God, as He will meet all of your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.**

The real follower of Christ will pattern his or her life based on the dependence of God, and all of the follower's needs will be met according to the riches in Christ Jesus, as you can see in scripture here:

**Philippians 4:19** - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

In this particular case, those who are in Christ will always consult with the Lord Jesus Christ if they need resources, or food, and the Lord will make a way for these resources to be delivered to His people. However, if His people decide to go outside of the provisions that the Lord has provided for them, the Lord will leave you to your own devices. If you are depending on a lottery ticket to get you instant riches, that is sin and you will need to repent, as the Lord will provide you with what you need and not what you think you may want.

If you did win all of that money, for instance, the devil will claw it back through fees, taxes, payoffs and other things that you don't or won't know about. The devil will have his best beggars out there trying to get you to give your money to their cause, and you will not have much peace because of the activity.



### Area #3:



**The Lottery will pull you away from the Lord as you will be more interested in what you can get through gambling than the Lord Himself.**

The real follower of Christ should be worshipping the Lord with all of their heart, soul and mind, and in this case, the lottery will get you to turn your heart away from the Lord, as you can see in scripture here:

**Matthew 6:19 – 21** - Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

In this scripture, the Lord is telling us that we should set our mind on things that are above and not worry about the things here. Gambling will draw you down to things here, and go against what the Lord has commanded us to do.

If we did get the money from the lottery, where will we keep it? What bank will not try and rip us off? How many accountants and lawyers will I need to retain to keep what I have?

These are the questions that will consume you, Christian, if you did win the lottery.



#### **Area #4:**

**The Lottery promotes by greed, as greed lies at the heart of all gambling.**

The Bible has a LOT to say about greed, and gambling will bring out the greed in you, as you can see in scripture here:

**Mark 7:21-23** - For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

**Proverbs 15:27** - He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

**Proverbs 1:15 – 19** - My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

This is the idol and the trap that the Lottery will have for anyone who decides to play and gamble in this manner. These are warnings to you, Christian, to not imbibe in this activity because it can become a snare unto you. Sure, it is the lottery, but we are talking about BIG money here, and this will keep you playing because you will think that you will hit the BIG ONE and be set for life.



#### **Area #5:**

**The Lottery will increase covetousness in your heart, as this is the desire to get something for nothing.**

As with any idol, playing the lottery will cause you to covet the BIG MONEY, and this will be a snare unto you to continue to play the Lottery, hoping that you will get what you covet. See this in scripture here:

**Romans 7:7** - What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, **Thou shalt not covet.**

**Romans 13:9** - For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, **Thou shalt not covet;** and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

**Proverbs 21:25-26** - The desire of the slothful killeth him; **for his hands refuse to labour. He coveteth greedily all the day long;** but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

Did you notice that covetousness and greed go hand in hand in the scriptures? This is why the Lord told us not to covet ANYTHING, as this leads to greed and greed can consume you if you are not careful.

# **what in the WORLD**



## **is going on?**

So how do we fix this?

Be content in what the Lord has provided for you, Christian, and leave the Lottery alone. Refrain from dreaming about what you are going to do with all of that money; it will be clawed back by the devil soon enough. If you look into others who have won the lottery, we do not see many people who were very happy. We also do not see people who kept the money that they won.

In many of the cases, the people would blow through the money and not have anything left to show for after a year or two. If you have ever wondered why people who had won a lot of money are all messed up, this is why. You have no idea of the pressures that the devil puts on you to give him back the money that he gave you, especially if you are NOT going to follow him.

Many people think that they are going to be sitting pretty with the money, but they won't. They think that they will be set for life, and they are not. They think if all of the good they could do with the money, but how can you do more good than the Lord Jesus Christ who provides for you?

You can't.

The whole world lies in the wicked one, so keep your eyes on things above and your heavenly treasure that you will get because Jesus says you will IF you endure to the end. All of the stuff down here on earth is fleeting and it is temporary. What if you decided to pull out your money and keep the money in your safe, and then the devil decides that fiat currency is not accepted anymore.

What do you do?

The devil is known for pulling the rug out from under people leaving many people destitute and beholden to the world systems. You do NOT want to be beholden to the world's systems, Christian; stay in Jesus and have Him guide you through all of the pitfalls that are in front of you. The devil is going to try and bind you with that money, Christian, and keep you bound and captive. Stay free, and stay in Jesus.

That is your only hope.



As always, **take NOTHING that you have seen here in this book as the truth.** It is **YOUR responsibility to study and check out everything that you see and hear**, and you have an advocate in the Lord Jesus Christ who will help you if you would just ask Him.

Take this upon yourself, Christian, as **YOU** need to get **YOUR** Bible, **YOUR** concordance, **YOUR** dictionary, **YOUR** pens/pencils, **YOUR** notepad and then **YOU** need to seek out the Lord Jesus Christ and ask Him to help **YOU** so **YOU** can make it into His Kingdom, since it will be **YOU standing alone in front of Jesus** when **YOU** are being judged.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to make sure **YOU** are in the faith and that **YOU** have completed **YOUR** sanctification during the sanctification process and **YOU** have gotten **YOUR** forgiveness and **YOU** have repented of all of **YOUR** sins before **YOU** are judged by Jesus.

Scripture tells us that hell will enlarge itself to accommodate all of the people who will be sent there because of idols like the pope, as you can see in scripture here:

**Isaiah 5:14** - Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

Take this as a warning, Christian, as the Lord Jesus Christ is NOT desperate for people, as **there were only 8 people** who got on the ark before the flood, and **only 2 people** from the Hebrews from Egypt made it into the Promised Land.

Be wise, and stay IN Jesus so you are not lost.



# Here is Our Challenge to you, Christian

We challenge you to go to Jesus directly **RIGHT NOW** and ask Him if what is shown here is true. Use this as a means to start a conversation with The Lord Jesus Christ and sit with Him and ask Him questions. Start with **(asking out loud):**

**“Jesus, is what I just read true?”**

He will answer you and NOW you will be on the true road to salvation, knowing for **SURE** if you are going to make it or not, as Jesus would have told you. Keep talking with Him. Get to know Him and He will start to reveal Himself to you. You need to find out for yourself and work out **YOUR** salvation for **YOU**, as the scriptures tell us to.