

This week Dr. Baucom continues his sermon series, ***In and Out***. Let's look at how we are being challenged as Christ's disciples to live differently in the world while not becoming a part of it through Dr. Baucom's sermon "***Into Risk, But Not of It***," dealing with gambling of all sorts, as well as risky investments, questionable loans, and risky ventures.

1. Why do you think gambling can be so exciting?
 - ✓ The thrill of chance?
 - ✓ The enticement of getting something for nothing?
 - ✓ EGO, getting ahead of others?
 - ✓ Adrenalin rush in the risk?
2. Have you ever dreamed about winning the lottery and what you would do with the winnings? Why do you think so many have this dream?
3. Have you bought a lotto ticket? Played the slots? How about invested in a company that carried great risk to your investment? Why did you make this investment with your money? Was the outcome what you had hoped for? How did you deal with either the winning or losing?
4. **Read and Reflect on 1 Timothy 6:9-16.**
 - What are the concerns raised for those who desire to be rich?
 - What does Paul say is the root of all kinds of evils?
 - Does that have truth for today with activity that sometimes resembles gambling?
 - When money becomes the/our focus, what happens to our relationship with God? What happens to our faith?
 - What does this passage encourage us as followers of Jesus to do? What are we encouraged to pursue?
 - How might that make a difference in our lives?

5. **Read and Reflect on Ephesians 4:28 & 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13.**
 - What do these verses say about idleness and work?
 - Why might one labor with his or her own hands?
 - How might someone who gambles be like a *thief*?
6. According to **Galatians 5:22-26**,; what are we as followers of Jesus to nurture in our lives?
 - What are we to do with our fleshly desires (vs. 24)?
 - Where are we to find our direction and guidance?
7. What do the following Proverbs say to you about taking a risk or looking for something from nothing?
 - ☐ Proverbs 28:20
 - ☐ Proverbs 28:22
 - ☐ Proverbs 13:11
8. **Read and Reflect on Matthew 25:14-30.** This is a parable about stewardship. As you read this passage, pause to reflect on how our view of stewardship might impact the issue of gambling in the life of a Christ follower.
 - How does stewardship speak to our investing wisely?
 - What does stewardship say to us about taking risk with all that God has given?
 - How should our understanding of stewardship affect the way we invest our monies, time, etc?
 - How does stewardship relate to gambling?
9. When God comes to settle accounts with you, reflecting on how you have invested so far in your life, what do you think his response would be to you:
 - ☐ Well done good and faithful servant
 - ☐ I am disappointed in you. You have been independent, rebellious and lazy.