

The Vine Committee

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HOM'S Reflections

You could win a million dollars by winning a gold medal at the Olympics, or you could win \$200,000 by winning a gold medal at the paralympics, or you could win a Subaru car by just placing your hand on the car for the longest time. All these achievements take much effort and training and we Singaporeans should be encouraged to be hardworking and honest. So why do we want to introduce online gambling and turn hardwork into laziness and risk taking?

Maybe it all started in our primary school days where our exams were MCQs (Multiple Choice Questions) and those who did not study could still get through by sheer luck. We start to believe that Fortune Favours the Brave. How many have found out that statistically gambling have more losers than winners. The short answer is no, you will never win. The odds of winning the usual 6/49 lottery are 1 in 13,983,816. You would have to play the game 9,692,842 times to have a 50/50 chance of winning at least once. Assuming you bought 100 lottery tickets a day, it would take 265.6 years to have a 50% chance of winning. To have a 90% chance of winning, it would take 882.2 years. (Calculation from Internet)

Yet neither maths nor logic can stop a person from having false hopes. However Christians in a long queue might be sheepish about it but when gambling goes online, what a floodgate it might release. People of all ages, classes, races or religions will subscribe to it in the privacy of their own homes.

Is Gambling a sin? The word "Gambling" does not appear anywhere in the Bible so say those who wish to defend their position. The word "Trinity" does not appear anywhere in the Bible also.

How do we deduce that gambling is not an acceptable practice? Why do people gamble? Obviously to win money. The Bible has many things to say about money. *No servant can serve two masters....* (Luke 16:13) *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.* (1 Timothy 6:10)

Gambling is an attempt to gain money without work. *Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.* (Proverbs 10:4)

Gambling also has the potential to turn into an addiction. *...for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.* (2 Peter 2:19)

Gambling provides a sense of false hope. Participants place their hope in winning, often against astronomical odds, instead of placing their hope in God. Throughout the Bible, we are constantly reminded that our hope is in God alone, not money, power, or position:

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. (Psalm 62:5, NIV)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13, NIV)

If you have come to a realization that gambling is not good for Singapore, then do not subscribe to it. It will die a natural death based on the law of demand and supply. We cannot change people's nature however Jesus said: *"It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble."* (Luke 17:1-3)

To our hardworking Paralympics gold medalist, **Yip Pin Xiu**, who said, "I am not doing this for the money", we are proud of you. Your disabilities did not stop you from working for the Gold medal.



Martin Cheah

Note: Reflections on Gambling extracted from the Internet.