

## Powerball

All the hype and buildup to yesterday evening's Powerball has finally come to an end, at least for this week. Millions of folks rushed out to purchase their tickets in hopes of striking it rich! The prize: \$579.9 million, or a cash option of \$379.8 million (after taxes). At one point, tickets were selling at a rate of 130,000 a minute nationwide (7.8 million tickets an hour or \$15.6 million). It's amazing to me that with an economy on the verge of collapse, millions out of work, and a national debt in the trillions of dollars, Americans (many of whom are unemployed) handed over their money in hopes of purchasing a ticket that had a 1 in 175 million chance of winning. Unbelievable! Reports are that two winning tickets were sold, which means, if both take the cash option, each will receive \$189.9 million after taxes. That's an enormous sum of money, but according to the National Endowment for Financial Education, an estimated 70% of all people who land sudden windfalls lose that money within a few years.

Greed will destroy, just ask Gehazi (**cf. 2 Kings 5:16ff**). Truth be told, greed is what drives people to play the lottery. People play to win, to strike it rich! Folks love money, and the more of it they have, the happier they think they'll be. But the apostle Paul had this to say: *"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which*

*while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”(1 Tim. 6:6-10).*

Great gain is not, by chance, winning the Powerball. Great gain is, with 100% certainty, living a life where Christ is your number one love! And the nice thing about living a Christ-centered life is you're a guaranteed winner!

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