

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## God blessed me with a powerball win

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**T**he Kentucky man was at the end of his rope. He was laid off and at the end of his unemployment checks. He was praying to God for help, but looked to help himself by taking a chance in the Powerball lottery. When he, as one of the multiple winners, claimed the \$41million prize He gave God the glory for his winnings.

“God was listening”, the Kentucky man said looking upward. This man was thankful to God, and publicly praised Him for answering his prayers. Who could not see that he was down and out, and that God delivered him by blessing him with the Powerball win? After all, the winning numbers just came to him. Was this man blessed by God with the lottery win?

There is a difference between what God allows to occur in our life and what He approves of in our life. This grateful man looks upon his experience and concludes that God approves of what he has done. We need to remember that God sometimes allows man to receive things which are contrary to what God desires. For example, God’s people asked

for a King so they could be like the other the nations around them. God allowed the desire to become a reality. But he saw the action as, “...they have rejected me, that I should not be king over them” (I Samuel 8:7). God allowed the Israelites to go up and try to take Ramothgilead. Ahab wanted to go up, and he had four hundred prophets saying it was God’s will that he go. In reality, God had allowed a lying spirit to entice King Ahab to fight against the city. It was not to be a blessing to Ahab, for the event led to his death (I Kings 22:1-40). When men do not love the truth, God allows men to “believe a lie” (2 Thessalonians 2:11).

The truth is that God views “covetousness” as idolatry (Colossians 3:5). The Kentucky man may have been in desperate straits, but he found seven dollars in all his desperation to gamble only when the pot got so high that he could not resist. People play lotteries out of greed. Playing may be coupled with desperation, but it is fueled by covetousness. God reminds us, “But they that are minded to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts, such as drown men in destruction and perdition (I

Timothy 6:9). The “love of money” can lead God’s people “astray from the faith” (I Timothy 6:10), not into the faith. God may have allowed this man to win in the 1 in 8,000,000 odds, but God is a jealous God, and condemns the motive that caused this man to play Powerball.

One can become rich through unrighteous means. “Better is a little, with righteousness, than great revenues with injustice” (Proverbs 16:8). This man became rich on the losses of many other desperate, down and out people. Was God not “listening” to their cry? God allows men to become rich through ways He does not approve.

Will these new found riches be a blessing to this man? “Better is a little, with the fear of Jehovah, than great treasure and trouble therewith” (Proverbs 15:16). What will I do with all this money? Look how many come out of the wood work claiming to be family or friends! This man may learn the truth through experience concerning what is truly better. God may have “listened”, but this does not mean the Powerball win was a blessing from Him.