

\$95 Billion

Last week the National Football League began play. So finally instead of hearing about deflated footballs and which player was arrested for whatever we actually got to watch our favorite teams play! Any NFL fans out there? Any of you play Fantasy Football? Americans truly have a passion for football that sometimes borders on lunacy.

This week I saw a headline that stated there will be \$95 billion dollars wagered on NFL and college football games this year! Only \$2 billion of that will be done legally in Nevada the only state to allow legal wagering on sports.

Gambling is putting up money in hopes of gaining more money back. Yet it hardly ever works. In fact you are more likely to be struck by lightning than winning the lottery. While the odds of winning this week's football pool might not be as high it is still not a sure thing. You know the saying, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas?" Well that is especially true of gambling! How do you think they pay for all those lights? The money people lose at gambling pays for that.

Jesus gives us better odds than Vegas! He said in Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

We don't give in order to get. We give out of love for Christ and what He has done for us. We give to help others experience the grace of Jesus that we have. Yet a benefit of giving is that God promises to meet our needs.

So as we take up the offering this morning, who do you want to place your money on, your favorite team or God?