

TENTH COMMANDMENT: CONTROL YOUR DESIRES OR DO NOT COVET

LESSON #11

READ: Exo.20:17

1 INTRODUCTION:

1. I. Many believe that the final commandment is the most difficult of all.
 - a. A. It deals with the inner most thoughts of men's hearts.
 - b. B. The other commandments dealt with the visible acts, but this one deals with the control of our desires.
2. II. It is not wrong to desire a house, wife, etc.
 - a. A. It is wrong when we desire that which is our neighbors.
 - b. B. All covetousness is not wrong. 1 Cor.12:31, READ.

Covet = inordinate desire, greed, to grasp for more, to wish enviously, to lust or long after, to set one's heart on, to want that which is not right, passionate craving, to place the secular above the spiritual, the love of money, and to put gain above God.

Our Catholic friends have removed the second commandment that forbids the making of images, they divided this final commandment into two commandments, so to have a total of ten.

2 DISCUSSION:

1. I. THE FOLLOWING VERSES HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT COVETOUSNESS.
 - a. Prov.28:16, READ.
 - b. Luke 12:15, READ
 - c. The Gentiles condemned by Paul were covetous and were worthy of death. (Rom.1:29&32 READ).
 - d. No covetous person who is an idolater hath any inheritance in the kingdom of God and Christ. (Eph.5:5).
 - e. Covetousness is equated with idolatry (Col.3:5 READ).
 - f. Elders are to be those who are not lovers of money. (1 Tim.3:3).
 - g. We are told to be free from the love of money or covetousness. (Heb.13:5 READ).
 - h. Peter described some of the lost of his day, as having hearts exercised in covetousness. (2 Pet.2:14 READ).
2. 1 Jn.2:15-17 READ.

BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT COVETOUSNESS IS THE ROOT OF OTHER SINS:

1. 1 Tim.6:10, READ.
2. Covetousness moved Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit. Gen.3:6, READ.
 - a. This plunged the human race into sin.
3. Achan was greedy, Josh.7:21,READ.
 - a. He took what God had forbidden and brought defeat to Israel.
4. David was over come by lust in 2 Sam.11:2-4 when he saw Bathsebeba, bathing, this lust involved David in adultery and murder.
5. A covetous spirit caused Judas to betray Christ. Jn.12:6, READ.
 - a. Matt.27:3-5, Says, that thirty pieces of silver were enough for Judas to sell out his soul and his Lord. His covetous nature led him to commit suicide.

HOW CAN I KNOW IF I AM COVETOUS?

1. Are your thoughts always about this world?
 - a. Are you always thinking about your house, job, vacation, or hobbies?
 - b. Do you ever think of God, the church, the Bible, or your soul first?
 - c. Prov.23:7 READ.
2. How about your conversation?
 - a. Are you always talking about the things of this world?
 - b. Jesus said, Matt.12:34, READ.
3. Are you exchanging your soul for material goods?
 - a. If so you are taking an incredible loss on the exchange. READ: Luke 12:16-21. 2. Whatever you do never forget these immortal words of Jesus. Matt.16:26, READ.
4. Is your heart so set on this world, that you will do almost anything to obtain your heart's desire?
 - a. If your answer is yes to any of these questions you are covetous or are on the road to becoming greedy, grasping, and lustful.

CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF LEADING A COVETOUS LIFE.

1. Eve plunged the human race into sin because of covetousness.
2. Adam and Eve lost their paradise home in the garden and began to die because of their covetousness.
3. Achan and his family were stoned to death for his covetous spirit.
4. David reaped what he had sown all the rest of his days.
5. Judus lost his life and soul.
6. The rich farmer lost his soul according to Luke 12.
7. James 4:2, READ.
8. The covetous cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (1 Cor.6:9-10 READ).

HOW CAN WE OVERCOME COVETOUSNESS?

1. We must learn to put into practice Matt.22:37-39, READ.
2. When we learn to put God first, others second, and ourselves third, we will not be covetous.
3. We must also work on the heart.
 - a. Jesus said that out of the heart comes covetousness. (Mark 7:22 READ).
 - b. Phil.2:5, "Have this mind in you which was in Christ Jesus."
 - c. Then we must heed Matt.6:33, READ.
 - d. We can over come greed by putting first things first!
 - e. The spiritual must be elevated over the material.
4. Adopt the philosophy of Job, Job 1:21, "..naked came I out of my mother's womb and naked shall I return thither..."
 - a. 1 Tim.6:7, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we shall carry nothing out."
 - b. If we could all just learn this great lesson, we could overcome our lust for things of this world.

3 CONCLUSION:

1. WE ARE NOT TO COVET PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS THAT BELONG TO OTHERS.
2. ANYTHING THAT TAKES AWAY MY TASTE FOR THE BIBLE, OR CRAMPS MY PRAYER LIFE, OR MAKES MY CHRISTIAN WORK DIFFICULT IS WRONG FOR ME!
3. I MUST TURN AWAY FROM IT.