

Eighth COMMANDMENT: THOU SHALL NOT STEAL

LESSON 9

READ: Exo.20:15"

1 INTRODUCTION:

1. It is interesting to note that the first seven commandments were punishable by death!
 - a. The last three were not.
2. This commandment was given to protect the right to work, earn and save.
 - a. It emphasizes the dignity of ownership.

2 DISCUSSION:

1. We begin by pointing out that God owns all. Gen.1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
 - a. God owns all because he created all.
 - b. Exo.19:5, "All the earth is mine."
 - c. Psa.24:1, "The earth is the Lord's! And the fullness thereof."
 - d. Psa.50:10, "Every beast of the forest is mine and the cattle on a thousand hills."
 - e. Hag.2:8, "The silver is mine, the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."
 - f. God holds first mortgage on everything!
2. It is not wrong to own things.
3. It is God's will that we do so.
4. Gen.1:28-30, READ.

HOW CAN AND DO WE VIOLATE THIS COMMANDMENT?

1. Certainly theft is a direct violation of this law.
2. There are three ways to own or possess property.
 - a. We receive it as a gift, work for it, or steal it.
3. It is possible to steal things such as innocence, character, reputation, spirituality. 1 Pet.4:15, READ.
4. Extortion, the use of force to obtain the object of one's desire, is a transgression of this principle.
5. John the Baptist said to publicans and soldiers, Luke 3:14, READ.
6. Cheating, deception, fraud, call it what you may is certainly condemned.
7. False advertising steals from the public.
8. Cheating on a test or turning the speedometer back robs our fellow men and yea even ourselves. Rom.12:17, READ.
9. 1 Cor.6:9-10, READ
10. In my judgment gambling is a theft.
 - a. To gamble is to play a game for money or stake.
 - b. It causes man to hazard or risk that which belongs to him, in order to get that which belongs to another, with nothing given in return.

- c. You cannot make money gambling that is not lost by another.
- 11. Employees often steal from employers.
 - a. By failing to give a day's work for a day's pay.
 - b. Often things used on the job like tools are taken home and never returned. Eph.4:28, READ.
- 12. Employers often steal from their employees by withholding wages and other benefits, that rightly belong to them.
- 13. James 5:4, READ.
- 14. It is interesting that false prophets are called thieves and robbers in Jn.10.
 - a. Preachers and teachers who fail to teach the truth to their hearers are robbing them of life giving principles that will mean the difference between heaven and hell. Prov.23:33, READ, Jn.8:31-32.
- 15. The parable of the good Samaritan in Luke 10 reveals an attitude that places man in violation of this commandment.
- 16. The thief's attitude was, what is my neighbor's is mine and I will take it.
- 17. The priest and Levite, who passed by, had an attitude which said, what is mine is mine and I am going to keep it.
- 18. The Samaritan had the attitude we must all have, he reasoned, what is mine I will share.

WHO SUFFERS WHEN MEN STEAL?

- 1. The victim, he loses his possessions.
- 2. The public pays, merchants often add to the price of an item to make up for losses due to theft.
- 3. The thief suffers, they cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- 4. (1 Cor.6:9-10).
- 5. God suffers, Mal.3:8, READ,
- 6. We often rob God of our time. Eph.5:16, READ.
- 7. We sometimes fail to love God with our mind. (Matt.22:37 READ).
- 8. Our bodies are frequently withheld from God's service. (Rom.12:1) We are commanded to present our bodies a living sacrifice.
- 9. The world and all that is in it takes away from our love for God. (1 Jn.2:15-17 READ) Love not the world.
- 10. We are commanded in Matt.22:37-38, READ.
- 11. We are robbed when we allow these things to be withheld from God.

HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM BREAKING THIS LAW.

- 1. We must work on the human heart.
 - A. Jesus said that out of the heart come thefts. (Matt.15:17).
 - B. We need to see the things of this world from a Biblical perspective. Prov.23:5, READ.
 - i. Eccl.5:10, READ.
 - ii. Luke 12:15, READ.
 - iii. 1 Tim.6:7, READ.
 - iv. 2 Pet.3:10-11, READ.
- 2. Jesus' example should help us to view this world as it. Matt.8:20,

3. 6. We must value the spiritual over the material. Matt.6:33 READ.
 - a. Matt.16:26, READ.
4. Finally, what can or should we do, if we have broken this law?
 - A. If one is a non Christian, he must obey the gospel, so that his sins can be washed away by the blood of Christ.
 - B. Acts 2:38, READ.
 - C. If one is already a Christian, he should confess his sins to God and his fellow Christians and pray for forgiveness. (James 5:16; 1 Jn.1:9; Acts 8:21-24) READ ALL.

FINALLY: The thief ought to go to work, Paul taught, "Let him that stole, steal no more, but rather, let him labor with his hands that thing which is good, that he may have wherewith to give to him that is in need."

LET US RESOLVE THAT WE WILL NEVER BE GUILTY OF THEFT THAT WILL KEEP US OUT OF HEAVEN.