

## COVETOUSNESS, THIEVES, AND EXTORTIONERS

December 12, 2004

### **Ephesians 5:5**

For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor **covetous man**, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

### **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor **thieves**, nor **covetous**, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor **extortioners**, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

### **COVETOUSNESS DEFINED**

**Hebrews 13:5** Let your conversation be without **covetousness**; and **be content** [enough or sufficient] **with such things as ye have**: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

### **Covetousness starts in the heart**

**Mark 7:21-22** For from within, **out of the heart of men**, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, **covetousness**, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

### **Covetousness is uncontrolled lust**

**James 1:14-15** But every man is tempted, when he is **drawn away of his own lust**, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

### **ACCELERATED IN THE LAST DAYS**

**2 Timothy 3:1-2** **This know** (don't be ignorant) also, that **in the last days** perilous times shall come. 2 For [because] **men shall be** lovers of their own selves, **covetous**, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.

### **Thou shalt not covet**

**Exodus 20:17** **Thou shalt not covet** thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor **any thing that is thy neighbour's**.

### **Covetousness is idolatry**

**Ephesians 5:5** For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor **covetous man, who is an idolater**, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

### **The god of mammon**

**Matthew 6:24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and mammon**.

### **Coveteousness hinders obedience**

**Ezekiel 33:31** And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and **they hear thy words, but they will not do them**: for with their mouth they show much love, but **their heart goeth after their coveteousness**.

### **A ruined faith**

**1 Timothy 6:10** 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.

### **Paul coveted a crown of righteousness**

**2 Timothy 4:7-8** I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me **a crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me

only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

### **Desire now to appear with christ in glory**

**Colossians 3:1-4** If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ sitteth on **the right hand of God** (approval ?position of an overcomer ?Rev.3:21). 2 **Set your affection on things above** (rewards), not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead (to self), and your life is hid **with Christ** in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also **appear with him in glory**.

### **PUT TO DEATH Covetousness**

**Colossians 3:5** Therefore **put to death your members** which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness**, which is idolatry.

### **Guard yourself against covetousness**

**Luke 12:15** And he said unto them, Take heed, and **beware of covetousness**: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

### **Coveteousness leads to stealing**

**Joshua 7:21**"When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, **I coveted them and took them**. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."

### **Severe punishment on thieves**

**Joshua 7:24-25** And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And **all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire**, after they had stoned them with stones.

### **Thou shalt not steal**

**Exodus 20:1,15** And God spoke all these words, saying, 15 **Thou shalt not steal**.

### **STEALING PROFANES THE NAME OF GOD**

**Proverbs 30:8-9** Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, ?Who is the Lord??or lest I be poor, and **steal, and profane the name of my God**.

### **LOCAL CHURCH EXCLUSION**

**1 Corinthians 5:11-13** But now I have written unto you **not to keep company**, if any man that is called a **brother** (in the local church) **be** (live as) a fornicator, or **covetous**, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or **an extortioner**; with such an one no not to eat. 12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye **judge them that are within**? 13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore **put away from among yourselves that wicked person**.

### **EXTORTION DEFINED AND PROHIBITED**

**Luke 3:12-14** **Tax collectors** also came to be baptized. ?Teacher,? they asked, ?what should we do?? 13 **?Don?t collect any more than you are required to,**? he told them. 14 Then some **soldiers** asked him, ?And what should we do ?? He replied, **?Don?t extort money** and don?t accuse people falsely?**be content with your pay.**? (NIV)

### **God judged his people for extortion**

**Ezekiel 22:29,31** The people of the land have **practiced extortion** and committed robbery; they have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the sojourner without redress.31 Therefore **I have poured out my indignation upon them**; I have consumed them with **the fire of my wrath**; their way have I requited upon their heads, says the Lord GOD. (RSV)

### **The righteous reject extortion and bribes**

**Isaiah 33:15-16** He who **walks righteously** and speaks what is right, who **rejects gain from extortion** and keeps his hand **from accepting bribes**

, who stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil? 16

this is the man who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. **His bread will be supplied,** and water will not fail him.

### **Suffer not as a thief**

**1 Peter 4:15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

### **Judas was a thief**

**John 12:6** This he (Judas) said, not that he cared for the poor, but because **he was a thief**, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

### **THE THIEF ON THE CROSS HAD REPENTANCE AND FAITH**

**Luke 23:41-43** "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said to Jesus, "**Lord**, remember me when **You come into Your kingdom.**"

43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you today, you will be **with Me in Paradise.**"

### **Paridise is for he that overcomes**

**Revelation 2:7** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **To him that overcometh** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of **the paradise of God.**

### **Steal no more**

**Ephesians 4:28** Let him that stole **steal no more**: but rather let him labour, **working with his hands** the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.