

COVETOUSNESS

* THE HELLISH SIN OF COVETOUSNESS *

“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.” – Ex. 20:17 [Deut. 5:21]

Proceeding forth from the devouring flames of Mount Sinai, the voice of Almighty God thundered: “THOU SHALT NOT COVET...” (Ex. 20:17)! This is the 10TH COMMANDMENT. Are you guilty? A man can **covet** anything: a house, a woman, possessions, money, power, popularity, and fame. To **covet** something is to **desire** it as your own (Deut. 5:21). The deluded public of modern society cannot see anything morally wrong with it.

“**Be not deceived:** neither fornicators...**nor covetous**...shall inherit *the Kingdom of God*.” – 1 Cor. 6:9-10

Covetous people will go to hell for their refusal to repent of **covetousness**! They live in a culture that welcomes it. They contribute to an economy that thrives on it. Hardworking sinners are passionately driven to succeed through **covetousness**. They work for what they **want**, and when they get it, they *boast* about it, and then their peers call them *blessed*. Sound unusual to you? Maybe not. We live in an “*evil world*” (Gal. 1:4)! “*For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.*” (Ps. 10:3). Sinners would be shocked to discover that a God of love confessedly hates **covetous people** in Psalm 10:3.

This is the sin of **desire**! Paul said that he would have never known about the sin of **desire** or **lust** except that the law said, “*Thou shalt not covet.*” (Rom. 7:7). It is the **desire** to possess things that you do not have (Deut. 5:21). The **desire unsatisfied** makes men *discontent* or *unhappy*. This is a tragic and unrelenting cycle of human depravity! Why? Because *the eyes* are never **satisfied** with seeing (Eccl. 1:8), *the ears* are never **satisfied** with hearing (Eccl. 1:8), and *the mouth* and *belly* are never **satisfied** with eating (Eccl. 6:7; Php. 3:18-19). Even so, for this reason, the *labor* and *toil of work* never ends (Eccl. 4:8)! Not even riches can **satisfy** sinners (Eccl. 4:8, 5:10-12).

“*Hell and destruction* are never **full**; so *the eyes* of man are never **satisfied**.” – Prov. 27:20

“...*the heart* of the sons of men is full of **evil**, and **madness** is in their *heart* while they live, and after that they go to the dead.” – Eccl. 9:3 (Gen. 6:9)

There is something *hellishly* wrong with mankind! No wonder the Messiah decried the wickedness of sinners, calling them, *the Children of Hell* (Matt. 23:15). Something is wrong with their *eyes*, *ears*, and *mouth* (Prov. 6:16-19; Ps. 10:3). God didn't create people like this (Eccl. 7:29; Jer. 2:12-13). For, every sensory receptor of the human body of a sinner is inflamed with an uncontrollable **desire** to sin like the raging and unquenchable flames of Hell (Hab. 2:5, Rom. 8:7-8)! “*Destruction and misery* are in their ways: *And the way of peace* have they *not known*.” (Rom 3:16-17). There's only one remedy: THE CROSS (Gal. 2:20).

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his CROSS, and follow me.*” – Matt. 16:24 (Gal. 2:20)

“For the **preaching** of THE CROSS is to them that perish *foolishness*; but unto us which are saved it is *the*

power of God." - 1Cor. 1:18

Apparently, God doesn't want to satisfy the corrupt **desires** of **covetous** sinners! The **selfish desires** of sinners must be totally denied. Why? Because sinners will resort to religion as long as they are *fed* (John 6:26-27). They will even *howl* and *cry* to God in prayer for hours, and even pass a whole night as such, but in truth it's just for the *food* and *drink* that they **covet** to possess (Hos. 7:14)! God wants to remove *the sinner* from the picture entirely. God wants to bring him to his utter end through DEATH. This is the work of THE CROSS!

Sinners don't need their **desires** to be **satisfied**, they need *new desires* (Rom. 8:6-8). No one has ever had a God-shaped hole in their **heart** that only God can fill. Sinners need *new hearts* (Ezek. 36:26-27)! You can't get *your* life cleaned up to serve God. You need a *new life* altogether (2 Cor. 5:17)! Sinners must DIE to **live** (Gal. 2:20). Nothing short of DEATH will solve this problem. THE CROSS, as an execution device, will put an end to all the miserable wretchedness of mankind! Nothing else will save sinners from the foolish and hurtful **lusts** that drown them in destruction and perdition (1 Tim. 6:7-10).

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, *the lust* of the flesh, and *the lust* of the eyes, and *the pride* of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." – 1 John 2:15-17

Naturally, in a fallen world, **covetousness** is what **drives** men and women to work hard and be successful, so that they can live with **pride**. This is a cursed condition of heart and mind, where **the desire** is uncontrollable and never ceases to *wander* into the discovery of new things of **covetousness** (Eccl. 6:9). Visit the so called "Church" down the street and you will see more of the same, only the **covetousness** is disguised in religious activity. When sinning is made religiously ceremonious it strikes the sinner as something honorable.

"But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness..." - Jer. 22:17

"For from *the least* of them even unto *the greatest* of them every one is given to **covetousness**; and from *the prophet* even unto *the priest* every one dealeth falsely. They have healed also **the hurt** of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace." – Jer. 6:13-14

Don't let false Prophets take the stage and *flatter* you for another week of your **vain** lifetime (Eccl. 1:2, James 4:14). Don't let your Pastors make you feel at ease and without worries as they fill their pockets with your tithe money and run the Church like a business (1 Thess. 2:5, 2 Pet. 2:3). Gain isn't godliness (1 Tim. 6:3-5)! This isn't Christianity. These aren't true Christians. No **covetous** man will enter into *the Kingdom of Heaven* (1 Cor. 5:11, 6:9-10, Eph. 5:5, Rom. 1:29). You cannot serve God and money (Lk. 16:13; Matt. 6:19-24).

Covetousness has dragged billions of people down the broad way to hell. Keep living the way that you are and you will end up being so preoccupied with your own *earthly affairs* that you will never make time to get right with God (Php. 3:18-19). You will die and go to hell! Even if you achieve success, your **covetousness** will deceive you to make you think *life* is good, and before you have time to enjoy all your goods an angry God will suddenly require your soul! "*Take heed, and beware of covetousness...*" (Luke 12:15).

"And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth

plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” - Luke 12:15-21