

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

Commandment # 10 - Honor Contentment

Exodus 20:17

¹ The Tenth Commandment is to honor contentment. ² Exodus, chapter 20, verse 17, says, **You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.** ³

I. What Did This Mean to Them?

What did this mean to them? ⁴

What is the meaning of the word covet? ⁵ The word here ¹ means to delight in, to take pleasure in or to crave. ⁶ In the New Testament, the word ² means to lust after, set your heart upon or to long for. ⁷

It's used as an example of sin. Romans, chapter 7, verses 7 and 8, **What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had**

¹ חָמַד .

² ἐπιθυμέω.

not said, “Do not covet.” But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. ⁸

Covetousness is called, in the Bible, idolatry. Colossians, chapter 3, verse 5, **Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.** ⁹

Why is it like idolatry?

In the last century there was a historic bank robbery in London. The thieves not only got the money, but they were also able to rob all the safety deposit boxes. A wealthy woman interviewed the next morning cried out while sobbing, “My whole life was in that box!” To her, life consisted only of what she had accumulated from her secular endeavors! ¹⁰

Lord Jesus said, Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. ³ ₁₁

Israel had just invaded the Promised Land and conquered Jericho. The next target was the City of Ai. However, assuming God would give them the victory, they were initially defeated. It was discovered, after investigation, that Achan, the son of Zimri, of the tribe of Judah, had stolen some of the booty from the conquest of Jericho. He did this knowing God had forbidden it. His greed became more important to him than God's command! ⁴ ₁₂

When Naaman, the commander of the army of Aram, came to the Prophet Elisha to be healed of his leprosy, he was healed. Elisha refused to accept payment for the healing. His servant, Gehazi, however, came to the general in secret and asked for money

³ Luke 12:15.

⁴ Joshua 7:21 - When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

and clothes. As a result of that lie and his greed, Gehazi came down with the leprosy Naaman had been healed from. ⁵ ₁₃

Then there is the example of Judas betraying the Lord. Then one of the Twelve —the one called Judas Iscariot — went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over. ⁶ Judas’ greed superseded his loyalty to the Lord!

The world’s goals are diametrically opposed to God’s goals for you! ₁₄

The world’s goals are to accumulate things and the prestige that goes along with them. Psalm, chapter 10, verse 3, **He boasts of the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD.** ₁₅

⁵ II Kings 5:20-27 - After Naaman had traveled some distance, Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself, “My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him.”

⁶ Matthew 26:14-15.

God's goals for you are to accumulate peace, contentment and a victorious relationship with Him!

First Timothy, chapter 6, verses 9 through 11, puts it this way, **People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.** ¹⁶

II. What Should This Mean to You?

What should this mean to you? ¹⁷

You need to be aware of God's plan for your life! ¹⁸

What does God promise to you? ¹⁹

God supplies to you everything you need to survive in life! Hebrews, chapter 13, verse 5, **Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you**

have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” ²⁰ But He promises to provide only food and clothes. ⁷ Everything else you possess is gravy! ²¹

Why doesn't God make all of His children rich beyond imagination as some preachers claim? ²² Because then, you would never be content! ²³

Contentment is something that you have to learn! ²⁴

So, what is contentment? It's the art of being happy with what God is providing you at the time. It's freedom from anxiety and worry. ²⁵

When Roman soldiers asked John, the Baptizer, what they should do to please God, he answered, **Be content with your pay!** ⁸ ²⁶ **Be content** ⁹ has the idea of independence and self sufficiency. ²⁷

So, trust God for what you need and then be happy with what He provides! When you give a gift to

⁷ 1 Timothy 6:8 - But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

⁸ Luke 3:14.

⁹ ἀρκέω.

someone, but they are not satisfied, how does that make you feel? ²⁸

The Apostles learned it this way, I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. ²⁹

So, memorize Proverbs, chapter 30, verses 8 and 9, as one of the major mottos of your life . . .

**Give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.**

**Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and
say, 'Who is the LORD?'**

**Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor Your Name.**

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