

GREED

1 Timothy 6:3-16; Luke 12:13-21; Matt. 6:19-21; 26:14-16;
Phil. 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:5-6

Introduction: The Gospel of Greed

COVETOUSNESS (1 Tim. 6:6-10)

Exodus 20:17 "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."

Greed is a Disordered Love (1 Tim. 6:10; Matt. 6:19-21)

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 Do not store up for yourselves treasures *on earth*, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where *your* treasure is, there *your heart* will be also....²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Greed is Deceptive and Destructive (1 Tim 6:6-10; Luke 12:13-21)

Luke 12:15-21 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against *all kinds of greed*; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' ¹⁸ "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; *eat, drink and be merry.*'" ²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! *This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?*'" ²¹ "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Greed is Ultimately Unsatisfying (Luke 12:20-21; Matt 26:14-16)

Matthew 26:14-16 Then one of the Twelve-- the one called Judas Iscariot-- went to the chief priests ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.

CONTENTMENT

Contentment is Great Gain (1 Tim. 6:6-8)

Contentment is NOT Dependent on Circumstance (Phil 4:11-12)

Philippians 4:11-13 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² 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. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Contentment Requires Holy Sweat (Phil 4:11-12; 1 Tim 6:11-16)

Contentment Requires Christ Strength (Phil 4:13; Heb. 13:5-6)

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, **so that you through his poverty might become rich.**

Hebrews 13:5-6 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.*" ⁶ So we say with confidence, "*The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?*"

Questions for Reflection:

- Do you think of yourself as a greedy or covetous person? Why or why not?
- Do you struggle to be content with what you have? Do difficult circumstances steal your joy? What does the example of the apostle Paul teach us about contentment in Christ?
- Can you think of other biblical promises that can help you in the struggle against covetousness?