

and the faith of Jesus.”

Paul exhorts Christians not be covetous, but to be content with such things as they have.

1 Timothy 6:6-11 “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 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. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.”

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

THERE ISN'T ANY SALVATION FOR A COVETOUS PERSON

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, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

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.” Colossians 3:5,6 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.”

In the last two passages, Paul teaches us that a covetous person is also an idolater, and as such they have no place in the Kingdom of God.

This is a Salvation issue that is a neglected subject among professed Christians. This study has also established the truth, that obedience **to the tenth commandment “Thou shalt NOT Covet”, is essential to our salvation in the New Testament scriptures!**

NOTE: All Bible texts have been taken from the King James Version; and the compilers have supplied all emphasis. This tract has been compiled after making an exhaustive study of the subject of “covetousness” using **Strong's Concordance to find every reference in the Bible.**

For more information/documentation on this subject and others please write or email, and we will gladly send it to you free of charge.

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Freely ye have received, freely give.
Mat 10:8



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#10

BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS!



FOR YOUR SOUL'S SAKE!

GOD'S LAW FORBIDS COVETOUSNESS

The tenth Commandment of God's Law forbids us coveting anything that belongs to our neighbour.

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.”

When Moses repeated the Ten Commandments to the next generation of the children of Israel, covetousness was defined as desiring anything that belongs to our neighbour.

Deuteronomy 5:21 “Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's.”

The tenth Commandment is plainly enforced in the New Testament writings of the apostle Paul.

Romans 7:7 “**What shall we say then?** is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”

Romans 13:8-10 “**Owe no man any thing, but to love one another:** for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Covetousness by definition is having an unlawful desire for anything that belongs to your neighbour. Jesus broadened the definition of covetousness to also include, having an abundance of material possessions.

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.”

WHAT DOES GOD THINK OF COVETOUSNESS?

The Lord abhors the covetous person.

Psalms 10:3 “**For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.”**

Jesus taught that covetousness is an evil thing, which finds its root within the hearts or minds of mankind.

Mark 7:21-23 “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”

Jesus taught that covetousness is an abomination to God. He stated plainly that a person could not serve both God and Mammon.

The Greek word which is translated in the following passage as “**mammon**” is the word “μαμμωνᾶς” “*mam-mo-nas*” – See *Strong's Concordance; Greek No. 3126*. It is defined in *Walter Bauer's – “A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature”, p.490* as “**wealth, property**”.

Luke 16:13,14 “**No servant 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. And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.”

The religious leaders of Jesus' day – the Pharisees derided Christ's teaching, because they were covetous. Unfortunately, many professed Christians today are also covetous, with some supposedly Christian ministers, teaching that “God wants believers to be

rich”, which in reality is a “gospel” of material prosperity and wealth. Such teachers are following in the footsteps of the Pharisees in the days of Christ.

CHRISTIANS ARE FORBIDDEN TO BE COVETOUS

A Christian bishop or elder is not to be covetous.

1 Timothy 3:2, 3 “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, *not greedy of filthy lucre*; but patient, not a brawler, *not covetous*.”

A professed Christian brother or sister, who is covetous, is to be disfellowshipped and shunned.

1 Corinthians 5:11, 13 “**But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. ... But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.**”

Covetousness is not to be found among the saints.

Ephesians 5:3 “**But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints.**”

This would be because the saints **keep God's Commandments that forbid covetousness.**

Revelation 14:12 “**Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God,**