

Beware of Covetousness

I. Introduction

- A. Jesus taught the need to guard against the sin of covetousness. Consider some things Scripture teaches about this sin and avoidance of it. **Luke 12:15**

II. Properly Value

- A. Overcoming covetousness demands that we understand the comparative value of spiritual and temporal things. **Luke 12:15b** (cf. **verse 16-21**)
- B. Money and material possessions are not evil in themselves, and can actually be used for much good. **1 Timothy 6:18**
- C. Yet, they are not what life is about. One is not better or worse for having much or little materially. Those who are right with God have riches far more valuable than anything money can buy. **Revelation 2:9; 3:17**

III. Learn Contentment

- A. Covetousness is in many ways the opposite of contentment. The attitude of covetousness fails to be content with God's will and/or one's lot in life. **Hebrews 13:5-6**
- B. The attitude might be, "I want to please God, but I also need to have [this possession or that possession] to be satisfied." Instead of this attitude, we must, like Paul, *learn* to be content. **Philippians 4:10-12**

IV. Flee Idolatry

- A. When one looks to a material possession for that which only God provides, he or she is allowing such a possession to become an idol. Money, a house, a car, etc. can all be idols, and *will* be idols if we covet them. **Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5**

V. Be Not Deceived

- A. Covetousness well-exemplifies the deceitfulness of sin. While the covetous person thinks that what is coveted will bring satisfaction, any such satisfaction is fleeting. On the other hand, the ruin and destruction the covetous person brings on him or herself is lasting (unless and until repentance occurs). **Matthew 13:22; 1 Timothy 6:9-10; Ecclesiastes 5:10**

VI. Conclusion

- A. May we not be deceived like the rich fool in Jesus' parable, but recognize what life is truly about, seek the spiritual riches God offers, and be content with *these* blessings, regardless of how much we have materially. **Luke 12:15**