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Covetousness - Selfish and Self-Serving

King Solomon, in the book of Ecclesiastes, discussed various ways in which man pursues happiness, one of which is the goal of material wealth. Surely if man can gain great riches, contentment and satisfaction will be theirs. Not so!

Solomon worded it this way in Ecclesiastes 5:10, **“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.”** The thought remains that great riches breeds greed and a spirit of covetousness prevails. On the way up the ladder of self-serving material wealth, one often sees what others have and covets it rather than being content with what they have. Oftentimes, it means stepping on others in their attempt to be self-serving.

Those who hoard their riches instead of using it wisely as good stewards in the Kingdom of God, often grieve over what will become of their riches when they die. Solomon addressed this in Ecclesiastes 5:15, **“As he came forth of his mother’s womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.”** The common saying is *‘You can’t take it with you!’*

Our mind goes to the parable of **“a certain rich man”** whose ground had **“brought forth plentifully”** (Luke 12:16). The fields of this “rich man” had produced so much that his barns could not hold all of it. So 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”** (Luke 12:18). The mindset of this rich man was to sit back and admire his great fortune and take his ease. He told himself, **“...take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry”** (vs. 19).

Notice closely what 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?”** (vs. 20). It is far better to remember where our blessings come from. Paul affirmed this teaching in I Timothy 6:10. He never said that money within itself is evil, but rather **“...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.” What happens is that in the pursuit of great riches, one often forgets to remain faithful to the church and serving God as he should, or, doesn't serve Him at all.

Bottom line: If you are rich in earthly goods, praise the Lord and thank Him often for all of His blessings. Reach out to those who are in honest need and sincerely need your help. If you don't have much in the way of material things, do not spend your time in coveting what your neighbor has or in serving self. Our priority should be to **“seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”** (Matthew 6:33). God may not supply all of your wants, but He will take care of your needs. **“Think About It!”**