

Grabbing for more than God may want you to have

The Heart Problem of Covetousness

In America there are many people who just can't seem to get enough of anything. They are always wanting more, working for more, while the things that really count sit by the side of the road.

Things like families and relationships. Something as simple as enjoying the beauty God has given us, something we do not even have to work for.

If you are one of those people who are never satisfied with what you have, you may want to look these thoughts over

Definition: To covet means to desire or take pleasure in.

This is not necessarily wrong in and of itself because we can take pleasure in our blessings, a job well done or some other things you might be able to think of.

Covetousness though, is simply desire and pleasure that is out of control and this is bad.

I. Assorted thoughts on covetousness

A. Its association in Scripture

II Timothy 3:1-7 It is associated here with the end times

Thought: Isn't it true that great amounts of time and energy are spent in looking out for good old # 1 here in our land during the days we find ourselves in?

We covet, desire strongly, and take great pleasure in getting our way, and the things we want. We are indeed lovers of self and the end times will find it that way.

Question, based on this, how close do you think the coming of the Lord is?

B. The results of covetousness

Colossians 3:5 All of these things result from covetousness and they are killers which destroy all who covet them because they cause us to miss God's best.

C. The secret to avoiding covetousness

Hebrews 13:1-6 The key words here are be content

Thought: If you are not happy with what you have, how could you be happier with more?

Therefore the cure for covetousness is think of something to give instead of something to get.

II. Practical thoughts for us

A. Things people often covet

1. Position, power, influence
2. This is the opposite of what God says Philippians 2:3,4 Ephesians 5:21

B. The right things for us to covet

I Corinthians 12:31 The greater gift

The greater gift is found in I Cor. 13. It is love.

Question, do we covet to love the unlovely, the mean, the hateful, the sinners, the people we just don't like? Seldom do we covet to do that but we should because it is the more excellent way.

Covet to share the gospel and tell helpful biblical things rather than trying to be the center of attention (or reverse pride) for example, Oh I can't do this or that.

Acts 20:35 Covet to do the work of ministry and not just have the title of Christian. God desires players in the game, not just spectators on the sideline.

There are many more spectators than participants and we should covet to be more than pew warmers.

Thought: You may be on the right track, but if you sit there, you may be run over.

Remember, There are two kinds of people; those who do the work and those who take the credit. So covet to be in the first group

Final thoughts: Are we grabbing the right things or the wrong things? Are we yearning for the things that we will leave behind when we die or are we craving a personal relationship with the one who loves us and gets us ready for what is ahead, not what is left behind.

If you long for what lies ahead why not read a bit further and follow the instructions below?

Realize you are a sinner Rom. 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.
Rom. 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Rom. 6:23b and Jn. 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)