

## ~GLUTTON (133)

[Hebrew, *zoh-lel'*]

- **A selfish, greedy person given to excessive indulgence, especially voracious eating.** Gluttony in any form is diametrically opposed to Bible precepts and principles.
- Under the Mosaic Law, parents of an incorrigible son who was a glutton and a drunkard were to bring him to the older men of the city, who would have him stoned to death.
- In case a man happens to have a son who is stubborn and rebellious, he not listening to the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and they have corrected him but he will not listen to them. (**Deuteronomy 21:18**)
- His father and his mother must also take hold of him and bring him out to the older men of his city and to the gate of his place. (**Deuteronomy 21:19**)
- And they must say to the older men of his city, This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He is not listening to our voice, being a **glutton** and a drunkard. (**Deuteronomy 21:20**)
- Then all the men of his city must pelt him with stones, and he must die. So you must clear away what is bad from your midst, and all Israel will hear and indeed become afraid. (**Deuteronomy 21:21**)
- As a warning to others, the Proverbs condemned even association with **gluttons**.
- An understanding son is observing the Law, but one having companionship with **gluttons** humiliates his father. (**Proverbs 28:7**)
- Do not come to be among heavy drinkers of wine, among those who are **gluttonous** eaters of flesh. (**Proverbs 23:20**)
- For a drunkard and a **glutton** will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe one with mere rags. (**Proverbs 23:21**)

- The **Hebrew** term here used for **glutton** and **gluttonous** eater is *zoh-lel'*. The basic sense of the word is possibly be lavish, that is, wasteful, prodigal.
- And they must say to the older men of his city, This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he is not listening to our voice, being a **glutton** and a drunkard. (**Deuteronomy 21:20**) Footnote
- In an effort to discredit Jesus Christ, one of the charges of slander hurled at him by his opponents was.
- The Son of man did come eating and drinking, still people say; Look! A man **gluttonous** and given to drinking wine, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. All the same, wisdom is proved righteous by its works. (**Matthew 11:19**)
- The Son of man has come eating and drinking, but you say; Look! A man **gluttonous** and given to drinking wine, a friend of tax collectors and sinners! (**Luke 7:34**)
- All the same, wisdom is proved righteous by all its children. (**Luke 7:35**)
- In other words, Jesus was saying; Look at my righteous works and conduct and you will know the charge is false.
- **Gluttony** certainly has no place in the Christian congregation, and the apostle Paul wanted to make sure it would not creep in.
- So, when leaving Titus in Crete to look after the young Christian organization there, he reminded Titus what one of Crete's own prophets, thought to have been Epimenides, a Cretan poet of the **Sixth Century B.C.E.**, had said;
- For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might correct the things that were defective and might make appointments of older men in city after city, as I gave you orders. (**Titus 1:5**)
- If there is any man free from accusation, a husband of one wife, having believing children that were not under a charge of debauchery nor unruly. (**Titus 1:6**)
- For an overseer must be free from accusation as God's steward, not self-willed, not prone to wrath, not a drunken brawler, not a

smiter, not greedy of dishonest gain. (Titus 1:7)

- But hospitable, a lover of goodness, sound in mind, righteous, loyal, self-controlled. (Titus 1:8)
- Holding firmly to the faithful word as respects his art of teaching, that he may be able both to exhort by the teaching that is healthful and to reprove those who contradict. (Titus 1:9)
- For there are many unruly men, profitless talkers, and deceivers of the mind, especially those men who adhere to the circumcision. (Titus 1:10)
- It is necessary to shut the mouths of these, as these very men keep on subverting entire households by teaching things they ought not for the sake of dishonest gain. (Titus 1:11)
- A certain one of them, their own prophet, said; Cretans are always liars, injurious wild beasts, unemployed **gluttons**. (Titus 1:12)
- Although not listed separately as a work of the flesh, **gluttony** often accompanies drunken bouts and revelries, and it is certainly included in the comprehensive expression things like these, the practicers of which will not inherit God's kingdom.
- Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct. (Galatians 5:19)
- Envy, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning you, the same way as I did forewarn you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom. (Galatians 5:21)
- Moderation in eating habits, as in all other activities, is a Christian virtue.
- The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a husband of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach. (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Women should likewise be serious, not slanderous, moderate in habits, faithful in all things. (1 Timothy 3:11)

