

~GREED (295)

[Hebrews, *cha-madh'*, Greek, *e-pi-thy-me'o*]

- Becomes Manifest In Actions
- Alienates From God
- Covetousness

- Inordinate or rapacious desire. The Hebrew verb *cha-madh'* and the Greek verb *e-pi-thy-me'o*, both mean desire.
- Why do you, O you mountains of peaks, keep watching enviously the mountain that God has **desired** for himself to dwell in? Even Yehowah himself will reside there forever. (**Psalms 68:16**)
- For I truly say to you, many prophets and righteous men **desired** to see the things you are beholding and did not see them, and to hear the things you are hearing and did not hear them. (**Matthew 13:17**)
- Sometimes these words may, according to the context, convey a bad, **selfish desire**.
- You must not desire your fellowman's house. You must not desire your fellowman's wife, nor his slave man nor his slave girl nor his bull nor his ass nor anything that belongs to your fellowman. (**Exodus 20:17**)
- What, then, shall we say? Is the Law sin? Never may that become so! Really I would not have come to know sin if it had not been for the Law, and, for example, I would not have known covetousness if the Law had not said; You must not **covet**. (**Romans 7:7**)
- The Greek word *ple-o-ne-xi'a* literally means **a desire to have more** and is used in the Bible to denote **greediness** and covetousness.
- Having come to be past all moral sense, they gave themselves over to loose conduct to work uncleanness of every sort with **greediness**. (**Ephesians 4:19**)
- Let fornication and uncleanness of every sort or **greediness** not even be mentioned among you, just as it befits holy people. (**Ephesians 5:3**) Footnote

- Deaden, therefore, your body members that are upon the earth as respects fornication, uncleanness, sexual appetite, hurtful desire, and **covetousness**, which is idolatry. (**Colossians 3:5**)
- **Greed** can manifest itself in love of money, desire for power or gain, or voraciousness for food and drink, sex, or other material things. The Scriptures warn Christians against this degrading trait and command that they should avoid association with anyone calling himself a Christian brother who practices greediness.
- In my letter I wrote you to quit mixing in company with fornicators. (**1 Corinthians 5:9**)
- Not meaning entirely with the fornicators of this world or the **greedy** persons and extortioners or idolaters. Otherwise, you would actually have to get out of the world. (**1 Corinthians 5:10**)
- But now I am writing you to quit mixing in company with anyone called a brother that is a fornicator or a **greedy** person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man. (**1 Corinthians 5:11**)
- **Greedy** persons are classed with fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, men kept for unnatural purposes, thieves, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners, and indeed, **greedy** persons generally practice some of these things. If an individual does not turn away from his greediness, he will not inherit the Kingdom of God.
- What! Do you not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be misled. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men. (**1 Corinthians 6:9**)
- Nor thieves, nor **greedy** persons, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit God's kingdom. (**1 Corinthians 6:10**)
- In condemnation of foolish talking and obscene jesting, the apostle Paul commands that fornication and uncleanness or **greediness** not even be mentioned among you. This may mean that not only should such practices not exist among Christians but also that they should not even be a topic of their conversation for the purpose of gratifying the flesh.

- Let fornication and uncleanness of every sort or **greediness** not even be mentioned among you, just as it befits holy people. (**Ephesians 5:3**)
- Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are of serious concern, whatever things are righteous, whatever things are chaste, whatever things are lovable, whatever things are well spoken of, whatever virtue there is and whatever praiseworthy thing there is, continue considering these things. (**Philippians 4:8**)

•• **Becomes Manifest In Actions**

- Greediness will manifest itself in some overt act that will reveal the individuals wrong and inordinate desire. The Bible writer James tells us that wrong desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin.

But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire. (**James 1:14**)

- Then the desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin, in turn, sin, when it has been accomplished, brings forth death. (**James 1:15**)
- The **greedy** person can therefore be detected by his actions. The apostle Paul states that being a **greedy** person means being an idolater.
- For you know this, recognizing it for yourselves, that no fornicator or unclean person or **greedy** person, **which means being an idolater**, has any inheritance in the kingdom of the Christ and of God. (**Ephesians 5:5**)
- In his **greedy** desire such a one makes the thing desired his god, putting it above the service and worship of the Creator.
- Therefore God, in keeping with the desires of their hearts, gave them up to uncleanness, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. (**Romans 1:24**)
- Even those who exchanged the truth of God for the lie and venerated and rendered sacred service to the creation rather than the One who created, who is blessed forever. Amen.

(Romans 1:25)

· Alienates From God

- Christians have come out from a world filled with all forms of bad conduct. Paul points out that not only are such things carried on but also that they are pursued with **greediness, greedily** sought after. Persons practicing these things are alienated from the life that belongs to God.
- Those becoming Christians find that Christ their Exemplar was free of such things, and hence they must make their minds over, putting on the new Christian personality.
- This, therefore, I say and bear witness to in the Lord, that you no longer go on walking just as the nations also walk in the unprofitableness of their minds. (**Ephesians 4:17**)
- While they are in darkness mentally, and alienated from the life that belongs to God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the insensibility of their hearts. (**Ephesians 4:18**)
- Having come to be past all moral sense, they gave themselves over to loose conduct to work uncleanness of every sort with **greediness**. (**Ephesians 4:19**)
- But you did not learn the Christ to be so. (**Ephesians 4:20**)
- Provided, indeed, that you heard him and were taught by means of him, just as truth is in Jesus. (**Ephesians 4:21**)
- That you should put away the old personality which conforms to your former course of conduct and which is being corrupted according to his deceptive desires. (**Ephesians 4:22**)
- But that you should be made new in the force actuating your mind. (**Ephesians 4:23**)
- And should put on the new personality which was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty. (**Ephesians 4:24**)
- And quit being fashioned after this system of things, but be transformed by making your mind over, that you may prove to

yourself the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
(**Romans 12:2**)

- At the same time they are living among **greedy** persons of the world and must be careful to maintain cleanness as illuminators in the world.
- In my letter I wrote you to quit mixing in company with fornicators. (**1 Corinthians 5:9**)
- Not meaning entirely with the fornicators of this world or the **greedy** persons and extortioners or idolaters. Otherwise, you would actually have to get out of the world. (**1 Corinthians 5:10**)
- Keep doing all things free from murmurings and arguments. (**Philippians 2:14**)
- That you may come to be blameless and innocent, children of God without a blemish in among a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you are shining as illuminators in the world. (**Philippians 2:15**)
- **Greediness** for dishonest gain would disqualify a man from being a ministerial servant in the Christian congregation.
- Ministerial servants should likewise be serious, not double-tongued, not giving themselves to a lot of wine, not **greedy** of dishonest gain. (**1 Timothy 3:8**)
- Since such men are to stand before the congregation as examples, it follows that the principle would apply to all members of the congregation.
- Shepherd the flock of God in your care, not under compulsion, but willingly, neither for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly. (**1 Peter 5:2**)
- Neither as lording it over those who are God's inheritance, but becoming examples to the flock. (**1 Peter 5:3**)
- Especially is this seen to be true in the light of Paul's statement that **greedy** persons will not inherit the Kingdom.
- For you know this, recognizing it for yourselves, that no

fornicator or unclean person or **greedy** person, **which means being an idolater**, has any inheritance in the kingdom of the Christ and of God. (**Ephesians 5:5**)

·· **Covetousness**

· When **greediness** has as its object that which belongs to another, it **becomes covetousness**. In the **Christian Greek Scriptures** the same Greek words are used for **greediness** and **covetousness**. Jesus Christ stated that **covetousness** defiles a man

- Further, he said; That which issues forth out of a man is what defiles a man. (**Mark 7:20**)
- For from inside, out of the heart of men, injurious reasonings issue forth, fornications, thieveries, murders. (**Mark 7:21**)
- Adulteries, **covetings**, acts of wickedness, deceit, loose conduct, an envious eye, blasphemy, haughtiness, unreasonableness. (**Mark 7:22**)
- All these wicked things issue forth from within and defile a man. (**Mark 7:23**)
- And warned against it. He followed this warning with the illustration of the covetous rich man who, at death, no longer had benefit from or control of his wealth and was also in the lamentable state of not being rich toward God.
- Then he said to them; Keep your eyes open and guard against every sort of **covetousness**, because even when a person has an abundance his life does not result from the things he possesses. (**Luke 12:15**)
- With that he spoke an illustration to them, saying; The land of a certain rich man produced well. (**Luke 12:16**)
- Consequently he began reasoning within himself, saying; What shall I do, now that I have nowhere to gather my crops? (**Luke 12:17**)
- So he said; I will do this. I will tear down my storehouses and build bigger ones, and there I will gather all my grain and all my good things. (**Luke 12:18**)

- **And I will say to my soul; Soul, you have many good things laid up for many years, take your ease, eat, drink, enjoy yourself. (Luke 12:19)**
- **But God said to him, Unreasonable one, this night they are demanding your soul from you. Who, then, is to have the things you stored up? (Luke 12:20)**
- **So it goes with the man that lays up treasure for himself but is not rich toward God. (Luke 12:21)**
- **Christians are told that their life is hidden with the Christ and that they must therefore deaden their body members as respects **covetousness**, hurtful desire, and all uncleannesses.**
- **For you died, and your life has been hidden with the Christ in union with God. (Colossians 3:3)**
- **Deaden, therefore, your body members that are upon the earth as respects fornication, uncleanness, sexual appetite, hurtful desire, and **covetousness**, which is idolatry. (Colossians 3:5)**