

Ephesians 4:28~ Let the stealer steal no more, but rather let him do hard work, doing with his hands what is good work, that he may have something to distribute to someone in need.

- 1· Paul now addresses some common problems associated with the works of the flesh, first stealing. He encourages the stealer to steal no more. Rather he should work at some kind of productive work, so that he may be able to give to others, for this is the Christian way, in imitation of a generous God, and a reflection of the new personality.

[Question] What common problems does Paul now address?

[Question] Why should the stealer, do hard work?

- 2· Neither must you **steal**. (**Deuteronomy 5:19**)

[Question] What was wrong under the Law Covenant?

- 3· And to make it your aim to live quietly, and to mind your own business, and **work** with your **hands**, just as we ordered you. (**1 Thessalonians 4:11**)

[Question] What should Christians do for work, and why?

- 4· In fact, also, when we were with you, we used to give you this order. If anyone does not want to **work**, neither **let** him eat. (**2 Thessalonians 3:10**)

[Question] Should the Christian congregation help needy ones, who refuse to work?

- 5· I **have** exhibited to you in all things, that by thus laboring, you must assist those who are weak, and must bear in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, when he himself said; There is more happiness in giving, than there is in receiving. (**Acts of Apostles 20:35**)

[Question] What should we be prepared to do to help others, and what must we therefore do to have the resources to help needy ones?

[Question] What brings the greatest happiness, receiving or giving?

- 6· You must not **steal**. (**Exodus 20:15**)

[Question] What did the Law Covenant forbid?

- 7· If a thief should be found in the act of breaking in, and he does get struck and die, there is no bloodguilt for him. (Exodus 22:2)

[Question] What was there no bloodguilt for, if a thief died while breaking in to another's house?

- 8· You people must not steal, and you must not deceive, and you must not deal falsely anyone with his associate. (Leviticus 19:11)

[Question] What were the Israelites counseled not to do?

- 9· Man goes forth to his activity, and to his service until evening. (Psalms 104:23)

[Question] What was man to do throughout the day to provide for himself?

- 10· The one cultivating his ground will himself be satisfied with bread, but the one pursuing valueless things, is in want of heart. (Proverbs 12:11)

[Question] What will the one working to cultivate the ground receive back?

- 11· The soul of the hard worker has worked hard for him, because his mouth has pressed him hard. (Proverbs 16:26)

[Question] Why do people generally work, for what need do we all have within us?

- 12· Her palm she has stretched out to the afflicted one, and her hands she has thrust out to the poor one. (Proverbs 31:20)

[Question] What is the proper way to look, with help toward those in need?

- 13· The stupid one is folding his hands, and is eating his own flesh. (Ecclesiastes 4:5)

[Question] What does the foolish one do, and what becomes the result of his lack of effort?

- 14· God, moreover, is able to make all his undeserved kindness abound toward you, that, while you always have full self-sufficiency in everything, you may have plenty for every

good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

[Question] Why does Yehowah God bless abundantly, those who are giving and generous, like him?

- 15· To such persons we give the order and exhortation in the Lord Jesus Christ, that by working with quietness, they should eat food they themselves earn. (2 Thessalonians 3:12)

[Question] What way should anointed Christians practice to be self-sufficient?

- 16· To **work** at **good**, to be rich in fine **works**, to be liberal, ready to share. (1 Timothy 6:18)

[Question] What course are anointed Christians encouraged to take?

- 17· Not committing theft, but exhibiting **good** fidelity to the full, so that they may adorn the teaching of our Savior, God, in all things. (Titus 2:10)

[Question] What should anointed Christians not do, and why?