



Lecture # 16 Part 2

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty To Others (Part 10):

Commandment Ten Concerns Man's Desires and Security— Never Covet, Exodus 20:17

3. (Exodus 20:17) Commandments, The Ten— Covetousness— Decision— Desire— Lust: What is the decision required by this commandment?

Exodus 20:17 (BHS)

¹⁷ “ לא תִחְמַד בֵּית רֵעֶךָ לֹא־תִחְמַד אִשֶּׁת רֵעֶךָ וְעַבְדּוֹ וְאִמָּתוֹ וְשׁוֹרָו וְחֲמֹרוֹ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר
פִּ” לְרֵעֶךָ: פ”

“Lo tahmod bet re'ekha lo tahmod eshet re'ekha veavdo vaam-ato
veshoro vahamoro vekhol asher lere'ekha”

Exodus 20:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ “**Thou shalt not covet** thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet
thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor
his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour's.”

Exodus 20:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ “**You shall not covet** your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your
neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or
his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

10. We must not lay up treasure upon earth, but rather lay up treasure in heaven.

Matthew 6:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and
rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth
nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal.”

11. We must walk in the Spirit of God not in the lusts of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the **desire
of the flesh.**”

12. We must pray and seek God for the things we need and want, not covet them.

James 4:2 (NASB)

² “You lust [**covet, desire**], and do not have; *so* you commit murder.
You are **envious** and cannot obtain; *so* you fight and quarrel. You do
not have because you do not ask.”



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13. We must not attempt to serve (covet, long after) both God and money.

Luke 16:13-14 (NASB)

¹³“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

¹⁴Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him.”

14. We must be content with what we have.

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NASB)

⁵“Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,”

⁶ so that we confidently say, “THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?”

The POSB (in its commentary on [Hebrews 13:5-6](#)) says this:

1. “Covetousness” (*aphilarguros*) means loving money or possessions. A person can love money, property, estates, houses, cars—anything on earth.

Thomas Hewitt points out that the Greek word for “conversation” (*tropos*) means *manner of life*, or *the way of thought and life*. The believer’s very thoughts are to be free from covetousness. His thoughts are to be focused upon Christ and the glorious hope of eternity, not upon this passing world and its possessions.

The believer is to have no secret lust for the things of this world.

2. A believer is to be content with what he has. This does not mean that a believer is not to improve himself, nor that he is not to work and make money and be wise in investments.

Scripture teaches the very opposite: we are to work and invest and make money. We are to make enough so that we can meet the needs of the world.

What this passage means is that we are to be.....

- a. satisfied with our lot in life: our ability, capacity, job, position, opportunities, and on and on
- b. satisfied with the home, possessions, clothing, goods and everything else we have, whether it is little or nothing
- c. satisfied with our present condition



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Again, this does not mean that we do not plan and focus upon improving everything around us—ranging from our personal possessions over to the world’s economy and environment.

Believers are to work and labor more diligently than anyone else in the world.

But while we labor, we know.....

- a. God never leaves us nor forsakes us ([Job 1:5](#))
Job 1:5 (NASB)
⁵“When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all; for Job said, “Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually.”
- b. God is our helper, and we are secure no matter what men may do to us ([Psalm 118:6](#))
Psalm 118:6 (NASB)
⁶“The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?”

Even if the world’s economy and peace collapsed, believers—true believers—would be secure in God. God provides for His dear followers until He is ready to take them home to heaven ([Matthew 6:33](#)).

Matthew 6:33 (NASB)

³³“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Matthew Henry sums it up well:

“This promise contains the sum and substance of all the promises. I will never, no, never leave thee, nor ever forsake thee. Here are no fewer than five negatives heaped together, to confirm the promise; the true believer shall have the gracious presence of God with him in life, at death, and forever.”

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NASB)

⁵“*Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “**I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,**”*

⁶ so that we confidently say, “THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?”