

THE INSTRUCTOR



“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

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WHAT PAUL TAUGHT ABOUT THE CHURCH

The apostle Paul was inspired of God. (See Gal. 1:12; Eph. 3:2-6; 1 Cor. 2:6-13, etc.) We can depend on what he has written.

Let us consider some things Paul taught about the church.

I. THE CHURCH AND THE BODY ARE THE SAME! See Col. 1:18 & Eph. 1:22-23. Although some people try to make a distinction between the body of Christ and the church of Christ, it is one and the same thing! Believe it!

II. THERE IS BUT ONE BODY, WHICH IS THE CHURCH!

There are nine passages that say there is one body. (See Rom. 12:4; 12:5; 1 Cor. 10:17; 12:12; 12:13; 12:20; Eph. 2:16; 4:4 and Col. 3:15.)

III. CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH! (See Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16; 5:23; Col. 1:18 & 2:10.)

--Christ doesn't direct denominational churches. They teach and practice false doctrines.

--Christ, being one head, can direct only one body – the church!

IV. GOD SHOULD BE GLORIFIED BY CHRIST JESUS IN

THE CHURCH! (See Eph. 3:21; Col. 3:17 and Acts 4:10-12).

V. THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD IS AND SHOULD BE MADE KNOWN BY THE CHURCH! (See Eph. 3:8-12 and 1 Tim. 3:14-15).

--The manifold wisdom of God is not made known by the setting up of denominational churches and none of them proclaim it truthfully.

VI. THERE SHOULD BE NO DIVISIONS IN THE BODY, THE CHURCH! (See 1 Cor. 1:10; 3:3-8; 12:25; Rom. 16:17-18). Also read what Jesus said in John 17:20-22.

VII. ALL OUTSIDE THE BODY (THE CHURCH) ARE ALIENS AND THUS LOST – BEING OUTSIDE OF CHRIST.

Read Eph. 2:11-22 very carefully and observe what these verses are teaching. To be cleansed by the blood of Christ and have hope of salvation, one must be reconciled to God in Christ, in the one body which is the church!

To be a member of the body of Christ (the church), one must "*obey the gospel of Christ.*" (CRS)

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Editorial...

COVETOUSNESS

Covetousness is no doubt a prevalent sin, but seldom confessed. Do you remember hearing anyone publicly confess the sin of covetousness? Has anyone ever privately confessed to you that he (or she) was guilty of covetousness?

It may surprise you what the Scriptures teach about covetousness.

Consider the following facts about covetousness.

I. Covetousness is listed in that group of ugly, damnable sins in Romans 1:28-32. Please read the passage very carefully.

II. An Elder is not to be covetous! 1 Tim. 3:2-7- says "A bishop then must be blameless...not covetous..."

III. Relative to perilous times in the last days, Paul says that ... "men shall be lovers of

their own selves, covetous..." (2 Tim. 3:1-2).

IV. "Thou shalt not covet" was one of the ten commandments of the law of Moses. Exodus 20:17 says: "*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 anything that is thy neighbour's.*"

In Romans 13:9-10 says: "*For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*"

NOTE: Covetousness was a sin under the Old Testament Law, and it is a sin under the New Testament.

V. Peter Warns Against False Teachers and Says They Will Be Covetous. Let us read what Peter says in 2 Peter 2:1-3. He says: "*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*"

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

NOTE: Verse 14 says: "*Having eyes full of adultery and that can-*

not cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children."

FURTHER NOTE: Also read and carefully study 1 Timothy 6:5; Titus 1:10-11, etc.

VI. Covetousness is a very Dangerous Sin Because it often Leads to Other Sins. Here are some examples of such.

1. Achan. In Joshua 7:20-21 Achan said unto Joshua, "*Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.*"

Covetousness was at the root of Achan stealing the garment, the silver and the wedge of gold.

When the Israelites went into battle against Ai they were defeated. They became discouraged. God was not with them because there was sin in the camp.

Joshua and all Israel took Achan, his sons and daughters and his livestock, all his possessions and all those things he had stolen to the valley of Achor. All Israel stoned them with stones, and burned them with fire after they had stoned them

2. David, King of Israel. We learn from 2 Samuel 11 that David saw a beautiful woman bathing herself. He coveted her, sent for her and committed adultery with her.

Later when he found out that she was with child, he tried to cover his sin by having her hus-

band to come home from the battlefield and lay with her, but he would not do so.

David then made arrangements so her husband would be killed and he could take the woman (Bathsheba) to be one of his wives.

The sin of coveting another man's wife was at the root of all these others sins that have been mentioned that David committed.

3. Gehazi. Read 2 Kings 5:20-27 and you will see that first Gehazi coveted and then he lied.

4. Judas Iscariot. We learn from Matthew 26:14-16 that Judas made plans to betray Jesus Christ, his friend & Lord for thirty pieces of silver. He obviously coveted this silver. (See 1 Tim. 6:10.) He then betrayed Jesus, and went out later and hanged himself. (See Mt. 27:3-10.)

VII. Jesus Warned Against Covetousness! Jesus said: "*Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*" (Lk. 12:15) Also see Lk. 16:13-15; Lk. 16:19-25; Mt. 6:19-21.

VIII. We Are Admonished in Heb. 13:5 to Let our Conversation Be Without Covetousness. Also see 1 Thess. 2:3-6.

IX. Jesus Taught that Covetousness Proceeds out of the Heart and Defiles a Man.

Jesus said: "*That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*" (Mark 7:20-23).

X. We Should Not Keep Company With Those Who Are Covetous.

Read 1 Cor. 5:9-11 very carefully and observe that it teaches that we are *"not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous...; with such a one no not to eat."* In other words, we should **"withdraw"** ourselves from such people.

XI. What is Covetousness?

1. WEBSTER: Covet- "to desire; to long for, esp. something belonging to another person." Covetous- "Inordinate-ly desirous, esp. of something belong to another person."

2. CRUDEN: Covet- "to wish for with eagerness; usually used in the sense of a fault, though not always." [Exceptions: 1 Cor. 12:31; 14:39 – CRS]

3. THAYER: "Covetous – one eager to have more, esp. what belongs to others...greedy of gain..." Covetousness- "greedy desire to have more, covetousness, avarice." Page 516

4. Covetousness, therefore, is an

inordinate controlling desire for something, usually that belongs to another. It is an attitude of greedily craving for material possessions.

5. Observe also that in the Scriptures covetousness is "defined as" (or said to be) idolatry and those who are guilty are called idolaters.

---Col. 3:5- *"...and covetousness which is idolatry."*

---Eph. 5:5- *"...nor covetous man who is an idolater."*

XII. The Covetous Shall Not Inherit the Kingdom of God!

Read carefully 1 Cor. 6:9-11 & Eph. 5:3-5.

The solution to the problem of covetousness is to hate covetousness (see Prov.28:16), abhor *"the love of money"* (see 1 Tim. 6:9-10) and *"let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints."* (See Eph.5:3) (CRS)

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SENTENCE SERMONS

The weaker we feel the more need we have to draw nearer to God.

* * * * *

Only Jesus, the Living Water, can truly and completely satisfy a thirsty soul!

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"A faith that cannot be tested is a faith that cannot be trusted." ---Tommy Hagewood

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The treasures of heaven far outweigh the treasures of earth.

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Obedience to God is an expression of our respect and love for God and His Word!

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