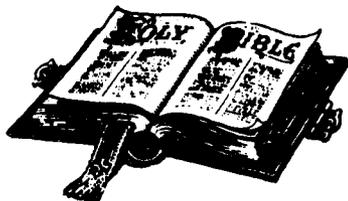


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## HOW DOES GOD REGARD SIN?

What is sin? John declares that **Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.**" (1 John 3:4). He also tells us that **"All unrighteousness is sin: . . ."** (1 John 5:17). James informs us that we may sin by **omission**, i.e., by failing to do good when we have the knowledge, ability and opportunity to do good. (See James 4:17). We learn from Romans 14:23 that **". . . whatsoever is not of faith is sin."** CRUDEN sums up what sin is by saying that **sin is "any thought, word, action, omission, or desire, contrary to the law of God."**

What is God's attitude toward sin? How does He regard sin? Here is how God looks upon sin:

(1) He regards sin as a **defiled garment!** In Rev. 3:4 Jesus said to the church in Sardis: **"Thou has a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy."**

(2) God regards sin as a **diseased body!** Speaking through Isaiah to the children of Judah, God said: **"From the sole of the**

**foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment."** (Isaiah 1:6).

(3) God regards sin as a **corrupted dead body!** Jesus said: **"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."** (Matthew 23:27).

(4) God regards sin as **darkness!** (See Prov. 4:19; John 3:19; Acts 26:18; Romans 2:19; 13:12; Eph. 5:11-12; 6:12; Col. 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9).

(5) God regards sin as **bondage!** (See John 8:33-34; Romans 6:16-18; 2 Peter 2:19).

(6) God regards sin as **filth and vomit!** (Please read 2 Peter 2:20-22).

(7) God regards sin as **corruption!** 2 Peter 2:19 mentions **"the servants of corruption."**

(8) **God hates sin!** The following Scriptures certainly reveals God's **hatred of sin.**

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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### *Editorial . . .*

## SOME SINS OF DISPOSITION OR ATTITUDE (Concluded)

In our past studies we have considered the sins of HATRED, EVIL SURMISINGS, INGRATITUDE, ENVY, MURMURING, PRIDE, SELFISHNESS, PREJUDICE, UNFORGIVENESS and FEAR. Let us continue our study of some sins of disposition or attitude.

### COVETOUSNESS

XI. COVETOUSNESS. Covetousness is listed in a group of very ugly sins in Romans 1:28-32. Those who are guilty of the sins mentioned there **“are worthy of death.”**

According to 1 Timothy 3:3 a bishop must be **“not covetous.”**

Relative to **“perilous times”** that would come **“in the last days,”** Paul declared that men shall **“. . . covetous. . .”** (2 Tim. 3:1-2).

**“Thou shalt not covet”** as one of the ten commandments given to Israel by Moses. (Exo. 20:10). See Romans 13:8-10. Also see Luke 6:31 & Mt. 7:12.

### WARNINGS AGAINST COVETOUSNESS

Jesus warned against covetousness in the following passages:

Matthew 6:19-21- **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, . . . : But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, . . . : For**

**where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”**

Luke 16:13-15- **“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify themselves before men; but God knoweth the hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.”**

Luke 12:15-21- **“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth . . . So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”**

Also see Luke 16:19-31.

Peter warned against false teachers and says they will be covetous. He said: **“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: . . .”** (2 Peter 2:1-3).

### A DANGEROUS SIN!

**Covetousness is a very dangerous sin because it often leads to other sins!** Here are some examples:

(1) ACHAN. He said: **“When I saw . . . , then I coveted them, and took them. . .”** (Joshua 7:21).

(2) DAVID, We learn from 2 Samuel that David looked, he coveted his neighbor’s wife and he took her and

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# SOME SINS OF DISPOSITION OR ATTITUDE (Concluded)

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committed adultery with her. Then he had her husband, Uriah, killed.

(3) GEHAZI. He **coveted**, then lied. (2 Kings 5:20-27).

(4) ANANIAS and SAPPHIRA. They lied about their possessions. (Acts 5:1-11).

(5) JUDAS ISCARIOT. He betrayed his master because he **coveted** 30 pieces of silver. (Matthew 26:14-16; 1 Tim. 6:9-10).

Jesus taught that **covetousness** proceeds out the heart and it defiles the man (Mark 7:21-23).

## WHAT IS COVETOUSNESS?

(1) WEBSTER: **Covet**- "to desire; to long for, esp. something belonging to another person." **Covetous**- "Inordinately desirous, esp. of something belonging to another person."

(2) CRUDEN: **Covet**- "to wish for with eagerness; usually used in the sense of a fault, though not always." NOTE: Here are two exceptions in the New Testament - 1 Cor. 12:31; 14:39.

(3) THAYER: "**Covetous**- one eager to have more, esp. what belongs to others . . . greedy of gain . . ." **Covetousness**- "greedy desire to have more, . . . avarice." (p. 516).

**COVETOUSNESS, therefore, is an inordinate controlling desire for something, usually that belongs to another. It is an attitude of greedily craving for material possessions.** (See Lk. 12:15-21).

**Observe** also that in the Scriptures we have these definitions:

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

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

NOTE: Most people guilty of the sin of covetousness would not admit, nor may realize, that they are idolaters. Nevertheless, they are!

We are admonished to let our conversation be **without** covetousness. (See Heb. 13:5).

Brethren who are covetous should be withdrawn from. (See 1 Cor. 5:9-11).

**COVETOUSNESS** is a very import-

ant matter because the covetous shall NOT inherit the kingdom of God! (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

We should not let **covetousness** "**be once named among**" us "**as become saints.**" (See Eph. 5:2). In fact, we should learn to **hate** covetousness. Solomon declared: "**. . . He that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.**" (Prov. 28:16). Let us resolve to put away covetousness.

XII. **WORRY.** In Matthew 6:25-34 Jesus taught his disciples to "**Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on.**" He also said: "**Take therefore no thought for the morrow. . . .**" The expression "**Take no thought . . .**" is rendered "**Be not anxious . . .**" in the ASV and "**Do not worry . . .**" in the NIV.

The apostle Paul exhorted the saints at Philippi to "**Be careful for nothing; . . .**" in Phil. 4:6. The expression "**Be careful for nothing; . . .**" is rendered "**In nothing be anxious; . . .**" in the ASV and "**Stop being worried about anything, . . .**" in BECK's translation.

We should care, be concerned about things but we should **not** be anxious or overly concerned or worry about things.

Worry is unproductive of and counter-productive to good. It doesn't produce anything worthwhile and it hinders one in doing what is right.

Here are things we can do to keep us from being guilty of the sin of worry.

(1) Learn our purpose in life is to glorify God. (Cf. 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 10:31).

(2) Get our priorities straight. (Cf. Mt. 4:4; 6:33; 16:26).

(3) Do all we can to solve the problem or correct the situation. (Act in accordance with divine principles).

(4) Have faith and trust in God and pray. (Cf. Mt. 6:25-33; Prov. 3:5; 1 Peter 5:7-9; Heb. 13:5-6; 4:15-16; 1 John 5:4 and Phil. 4:5-7, 13).

Let each of us examine our hearts and search our souls and determine to repent of and turn from every sin of disposition or attitude as well as all other sins. (CRS)

# HOW DOES GOD REGARD SIN?

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(1) PROVERBS 6:16-17- **“These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven things are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”**

(2) JEREMIAH 44:4- (God spake to the Jews through Jeremiah) **“Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending them saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate.”**

(3) PROVERBS 8:13- **“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: . . .”**

(4) ZECHARIAH 8:17- (God spake through Zachariah to the Jews) **“And let none of you imagine evil in your heart against his neighbor; and love no false oath; for all these things are things that I hate, saith the Lord.”**

In Amos 5:15 God told Israel to **“Hate the evil, and love the good, . . .”** In Romans 12:9 Christians are commanded to **“. . . Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”**

Let us develop the proper attitude toward sin! (CRS)

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**SOLOMON SAID:** **“Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.”** (Prov. 14:9).

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## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

Be master of your habits or they will master you.

\* \* \* \* \*

Don't fill up on this world's crumbs; feed your soul on living bread.

\* \* \* \* \*

Stand for something or you will fall for anything.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sorrow looks behind; Worry looks around; Faith looks up.

\* \* \* \* \*

Guard your thoughts because what you think, you are.

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