

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

June 24, 2018

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

What Does the Bible Say About Greed?

Chase Green

Note: This is the seventh in a series of articles regarding moral issues, entitled “What Does the Bible Say About...”

An employer gives his employees a bonus each year, the result of several years of increasing profits. This year, although his company is more profitable than ever, he decides to withhold those bonuses so he can buy a new sports car. A single mother loses everything she has because of an addiction to gambling. Now her children suffer from a lack of life’s most basic necessities. A preacher preaches for a congregation who has left the Truth. He neglects to preach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). He could preach for a congregation who stands for the Truth, but his paycheck would be cut in half. So he stays right where he’s at. What do all three of these stories have in common? Greed!

Greed is defined as follows: “a selfish and excessive desire for more of something (such as money) than is needed” (Merriam-Webster.com). We could also define greed by its antonym; greed is the opposite of contentment!

You may recall the life of Solomon. Solomon was the wisest person to have ever lived (besides Christ), and yet he got caught up in greed! He warned about the dangers of greed in the book of Proverbs: “He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts (bribes, TCG) shall live” (Prov. 15:27); “Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase” (Prov. 13:11). As Solomon wrote his personal memoirs in the book of Ecclesiastes, he looked back at a life marred by greed: “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity” (Ecc.5:10).

Solomon searched for happiness in all of the wrong places, including greed. Near the end of his life, he finally realized what he had missed: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Ecc. 12:13-14). Imagine Solomon’s heartache, as he laid on his death bed, realizing that he had wasted much of his life chasing vanity (emptiness). This is truly one of the most tragic stories in all of the Bible.

If we are not careful, especially with all of the material blessings in America, we can let greed take control of our lives. We must carefully guard against this sin, as well as (cntd on pg 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 6/17/18

Contribution – \$2463

Attendance:

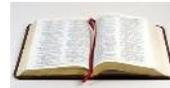
Sunday School – 31

Sunday Worship* – 47

Wednesday Night – 35

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: The church at Laodicea (Rev. 3:16, 19).

Q: Which two congregations were not rebuked by the Lord?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM: Guest Sermon — Ronnie Gootam

PM: Guest Sermon — Joshua Gootam

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconcofc.com (under construction)

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Gootam - India
Marlon Relana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2326 JONESBORO ROAD
MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057
WEST MONROE, LA 71294

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dewey Young — Margie Tippen — Buster Keeton — Ruth Coston — Regina Simmons — Wendy Traweek — Lisa Morris — Mildred Allhands — Marcia Green — Judy May — John Motherspaugh — Kenneth Hendrix (recovering from surgery) — Andrew Brown (away at an internship in Indiana)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Monthly Fellowship Meal Today in the annex in between services
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers! Our next get-together is scheduled for June 29th at Jarrod and Bessie's house — (If you would like to host or help with an event, please let Chase know)

(Continued from page 1)

its first cousin, materialism. Listen to what Paul says: “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich (that is, they will themselves toward riches with strong, sinful desire, TCG) fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness” (1 Tim. 6: 6-11).

Are riches, in and of themselves, sinful? No! God blessed Solomon with riches and wanted him to USE them for good, but Solomon became corrupted by his riches (as well as other influences in his life). Today, if one finds himself to be rich — and most of us in America ARE rich, at least by the rest of the world's standards — then he must constantly be on guard not to let those riches consume him. Paul said it this way: “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life” (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

Let us all be quick to realize that money isn't everything, that greed is dangerous, and that materialism is fleeting! As the old song says, “this world is not my home. I'm just a passing through!”
With love, Chase

From “Christ Is the Author of Salvation to All Who Obey Him”

Sunny David

Many in the world believe that one is saved by faith alone, without any act of obedience. Most preachers teach that all one has to do to be saved by the blood of Christ is to accept Jesus as one's personal Savior. It is said that “the doctrine of faith and faith alone is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.” However, the Bible teaches, Jesus Christ is the Author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. To obey means, “to do what one is told or expected to do.” Speaking about Christ, the Bible says, “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Hebrews 5:8-9).

Notice, He was a Son, the only begotten of the Father (John 1:18). One would have thought this might have exempted Him from obedience, but it did not. By His suffering, He was made perfect (complete, TCG), and He became the Author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. The salvation Christ accomplished for humanity by becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8), is actually bestowed on none but on those who obey Christ, and not on those who merely believe in Christ and accept Him as their personal Savior (James 2:24). It is not sufficient that one has some doctrinal knowledge of Christ, or that one makes a profession of faith in Him, but to be saved, one must hear what He says and obey Him. Hasn't Christ said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...” (Mark 16:16)?

Did Christ say, “He who believes in Me and accepts Me as personal savior will be saved”? No, He didn't say that. Neither Christ nor His apostles taught such a thing anywhere in the Bible. Those who teach, believe and accept the doctrine of salvation by faith only will find themselves on the day of Judgment in the company of those to whom Christ will say, “Depart from me, ye that work iniquity (or lawlessness, TCG)” (Matthew 7:23).

What is lawlessness? Disobeying the law of Christ is lawlessness. Christ has a law. His New Testament is His law that He gave through His apostles (John 14:25-26; 16:12-13; Matthew 18:18). “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord,” asked Jesus, “and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). To whom should one listen, to a preacher or to Christ, the Savior? Salvation, remission or forgiveness of sin, comes after, and not before, one is baptized into Christ, according to Acts 2:38 and Romans 6:3-4.

There are those who use Abraham as an example and believe that the apostle Paul in Romans 4:1-3 taught that justification is by faith alone, without works of any kind. Yet, James penned, “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God” (James 2:21-23).

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available 24/7 on FM radio and at Beaconcofc.com