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Section: Commands (Law)

Teacher: Steven Obert

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q54. Why does God give the tenth commandment: You shall not covet?**

So we will be content and satisfied with what God has provided, trusting in His plan.

**Exodus 20:17** “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 is your neighbor’s.”

**Introduction**

**Covet:** Yearn to possess or have (something). To desire something.

**What Is Covetousness and How Does It Affect Us?**

Covetousness is your heart’s over desire for something God has not given to you or given you the legal means to procure for yourself.

**Revelation 2:23b** (NASB) and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

**Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

**Matthew 12:33-37** “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

**Proverbs 30:7-9** Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

**Proverbs 3:9** Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce

**James 1:13-15** Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

The 10th commandment seems to be a sort of bookend to the commandments. You cannot keep the first while breaking the tenth, and you cannot keep the tenth while breaking the first. They both seem to get right to the heart.

**Exodus 20:17** “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 is your neighbor’s.”

**How Do We Kill This Heart-Centered, Sinful Desire?**

**Hebrews 11:1-7** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Our only true defense against the covetousness of our hearts is to be so fully satisfied and content in God that these other desires are choked out.

O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?

There’s light for a look at the Savior, And life more abundant and free.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face,

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,

In the light of His glory and grace.

**Romans 8:28-30** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

**Philippians 4:10-13** I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

**Philippians 4:11-13** (YLT) not that in respect of want I say [it], for I did learn in the things in which I am -- to be content; I have known both to be abased, and I have known to abound; in everything and in all things I have been initiated, both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in want. For all things I have strength, in Christ's strengthening me

**Hebrews 13:5** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”