

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Timothy 6:13-21 and James 5:1-5

EXTRA READINGS: Apostle's Creed and Canon III/IV, art 1 (pg. 106)

SINGING: 381:1-4 – 305:1-6 – 138:1-4 – 110:1-3

GOD'S TRUTHS ABOUT OUR POSSESSION (2)

- I. They always remain his property II. They ought never to possess us
III. They are to be obtained honestly IV. They are given to be invested properly
V. They are given to be enjoyed

I REVIEW OF POINT 1 & 2

A. The x-ray questions

1. Do I see myself as steward of God's possessions?

2. How much am I possessed by my possession?

B. James 5:1-5 is God's message to the 'rich Christians'

1. On the judgment day (1) God brings forth the incriminating witness (2-5)

2. Is God against being rich or prosperous or successful?

III. OUR POSSESSIONS ARE TO BE OBTAINED HONESTLY

A. God forbids us to *steal* what He hasn't given to us

B. God commands us to *work for daily needs*: 2 Thess. 3:10-12; Eph. 4:28

C. God commands to work *honestly* in obtaining our daily needs: *no steal!*

1. Applies to smallest things or details of our daily life

2. Applies to every means in which we take unlawfully what isn't given us
or what we haven't earned through clean work

a. selling goods dishonestly (Prov. 11:1; Amos 8:5)

b. monopolization (Prov. 11:26)

c. speculation (Ps. 15:5)

d. gambling, betting, lottery (Prov. 6:6-11)

e. buying on credit for pure luxury items (Ps. 37:21)

f. ignoring copy rights

g. evasion of taxes on our income (Rom. 13:7)

h. not paying decent wages (James 5:4)

g. not returning found goods to rightful owner (Deut 22:1-3)

h. usury (Deut 23:19; Ps. 15:5; Matt. 7:12)

D. God defines stealing far wider than *robbery*

1. stealing begins within heart with *greed or covetousness*

a. how do I know I am greedy?

2. abuse/waste of His gifts

E. God's command to not steal also contains the command 'to give'

IV. OUR POSSESSIONS ARE GIVEN TO BE INVESTED

A. 1 Tim. 6:17-18 God's will for those who are rich

1. Who are 'the rich?' (Amos 3:15; 5:11; 6:1-6)

2. God's commands to the rich

a. don't be haughty about being rich

b. don't be foolish to trust in your riches

c. be sure to invest your possessions charitably

B. 1 Tim. 6:19 speaks about God's return on such "investments"

1. Such giving is investing for your future here and hereafter

a. doesn't teach that salvation is by works

b. teaches God will reward those who invested **His** money **godly**

● Matthew 25:14-46; Prov. 11:25; Eccl. 11:1

C. It is God's will to provide for the "rainy day" (Gen. 41:25-36; Prov. 6:8)

V. OUR POSSESSIONS ARE GIVEN TO BE ENJOYED

A. We are to 'trust in the living God *who giveth us richly all things to enjoy*

1. He planted garden for Adam/Eve's enjoyment: Gen. 2:8-16

2. He provides the material world for our enjoyment but not for our trust

● 1 Tim. 6:17b, Eccl. 2:24; 3:11-13; 5:13, 18-20