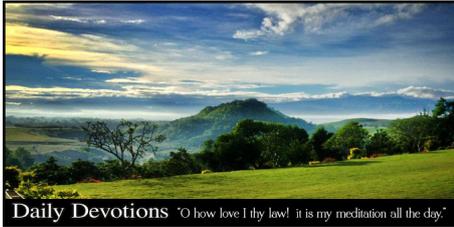


Hebrews 13:5a

Written by Rev (Dr) Prabhudas Koshy
Wednesday, 22 November 2017 00:00



READ:

Hebrews 13:5a

^{5a} Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have.

EXHORTATION:

Christians must be careful to avoid covetousness in life. It is a pernicious sin. The prophet Habakkuk said, “ *Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil* ” (Habakkuk 2:9)! In other words, one who lives covetously to secure a life of ease, which is seemingly free from troubles, will only invite greater troubles to his house.

In exposing its maliciousness, the Scriptures warn Christians against living with a covetous spirit. Consider some of the following Scriptural depictions of covetousness:

- Covetousness or “*love of money*” is “*the root of all evil*” (1 Timothy 6:10a).
- Covetousness is an ensnaring sin. 1 Timothy 6:9a says, “*But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare*”.
- Covetousness leads to “*many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition*” (1 Timothy 6:9b).
- Covetousness is an afflicting sin. Covetous people have “*pierced themselves through with many sorrows*” (1 Timothy 6:10c). No wonder the apostle James says, “*Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you*” (James 5:1)!

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- Covetous people “*have erred from the faith*” (1 Timothy 6:10b).
- Covetousness deceives the hearer of God’s Word into pursuing wealth at the expense of God’s wisdom, which will thereby “*choke the word, and he [the hearer] becometh unfruitful*” (Matthew 13:22; cf. Ezekiel 33:31).

- Covetousness interferes with a life of contentment and godliness (1 Timothy 6:6-9).
- Covetousness holds down people from entering the kingdom of God. In Mark 10:23, Jesus said, “*How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!*” (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:10; Ephesians 5:5).

- Covetousness brings God’s wrath upon people (Ephesians 5:6). Thus Proverbs 11:4 reminds us, “*Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.*”

Let us therefore be content with whatever the Lord has given us, and do not covet the luxuries and riches of this world.