

## Five big lies

- ✓ **Greed is good** because it promotes growth & productivity.
- ✓ We all should strive to “get ahead” and “**better ourselves.**”
- ✓ If **God wants His people to prosper** we should strive to do so?
- ✓ Coveting is one of those “**minor sins.**”
- ✓ I can not be **secure** if I don't care for myself first.

2 Corinthians 9

“<sup>1</sup> For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints; <sup>2</sup> for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, {namely,} that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them. <sup>3</sup> But I have sent the brethren, that our **boasting about you may not be made empty** in this case, that, as I was saying, you may be prepared; <sup>4</sup> lest if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to speak of you) should be put to shame by this confidence. <sup>5</sup> So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, that the same might be ready as a bountiful gift, and not **affected by covetousness.**”

2 Corinthians 9:5

“a bountiful gift”

“to bestow a blessing”

“**covetousness**”

“to defraud others through a strong desire to have more for oneself”

1.

We live with competing desires that must be recognized and managed.

2.

We cannot be free to bless others as we should while we are refusing to deal with our insecurities.

3.

Generosity is a gracious act that is the fruit of finding our security in Christ and not in the stuff of this world.

4.

Coveting is the fruit of a idolatrous attachment to our stuff so as to give it a “Messianic role” in our lives.

# Coveting

is desiring for myself anything that God has intended for someone else or that Satan would use in a Messianic role in my life.

## Observations from Luke 12:13-21

- ✓ There are **two ways** of measuring wealth.
- ✓ Prosperity and material wealth is **not evil.**
- ✓ **Greed (covetousness)** in any form is the problem.
- ✓ Material prosperity can **tempt one to be selfish** in the way they invest their life.
- ✓ Life is too short and uncontrolled to be **taken for-granted.**

Mark 7:20-22

“...that which cometh out of the man, that defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, **covetousness**, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness”.

Romans 1:28-29

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, **covetousness**, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers”.

2 Timothy 3:1-2

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, **covetous**, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy”.

James 4:5

“Do you think that the scripture speaks in vain, The spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy?”.

**Covetousness is a serious sin that gets lots of attention in Scripture.**

