



Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Volume 3, Issue 17

Today's Word: covet

May 19, 2007

Are You:

- Obeying the Commandments?
- Paying an Honest Tithe?

Today's Scriptures

Mark 10: 17-20; 12:41-44;
Luke 12: 13-21; Luke 14, 16

Next Week:

Lesson 18:

"He was Lost, and Is Found"

Luke 15; 17

W.W. Austin
Gospel Doctrine Teacher
wendywarrenaustin@hotmail.com
<http://ideawarehouse.blogspot.com>

Lesson 17: "What Shall I Do That I May Inherit Eternal Life?"

Questions to Ponder

- What is the difference between possessing riches and trusting in them?
- How can we become more dedicated to seeking spiritual treasures?



Brent L. Top:

"In our modern society that seems to urge people to satisfy their every desire, obedience to the tenth commandment affords us spiritual and temporal protection from the effects of a host of other evils. For example, when we faithfully abstain from covetousness, we will not fall into the traps of adultery or theft, for we will be free of the unrighteous desires that precede these sins. Thus, the commandment "Thou shalt not covet" is intrinsically related to all of the other commandments.

"To understand the meaning of the word *covet* as it is used in the tenth commandment, we must focus on *what* and *why* we covet. The word itself is used in both negative and positive senses in the Bible, and its application depends on the root word from which the English is translated. The Hebrew word translated as *covet* in Ex. 20:17 is *lo takhmodh*, which denotes an inordinate, consuming desire, arising from improper or evil motives. In the New Testament, however, the word appears in a very positive sense as Paul admonishes the Corinthians to "covet earnestly the best gifts" (1 Cor. 12: 31). *Covet* here is taken from the Greek word *zeloo*, which comes from the same root as our English word *zealous* and connotes a passionate desire to acquire something" ("Thou Shalt Not Covet," *Ensign*, Dec. 1994, 22.)

"So likewise whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple"

—Luke 14: 33

Elder Lynn G. Robbins:

"The authors of the book *Your Money or Your Life* suggest that fulfillment seems to increase during the initial stages of spending when one is buying necessities and some nice things, but begins to decrease with excess spending. . .

"Along with obeying the law of tithing and avoiding unnecessary debt, one of the most oft-repeated financial principles taught by our prophets is to live within our means, regardless of our income. If Satan can tempt us to overpurchase, we risk not only becoming a time slave to unnecessary debt but also "time-consumed" with too many things of this world. The result is less time for the Lord and our family" ("The Cost of Riches," *Ensign*, June 2003, 24).

More Money = Less Time



More Money ≠ More Happiness