



- But - When You Come To:
  - The Eighth Commandment:
    - The Focus Shifts!
      - And What Is *Its* Primary Focus?
        - On Property & Personal Possessions!
          - On *What* A Person *Has*, Verses *Who* That Person *Is!*

7. Now - At First Glance:
- This Seems To Contradict:
    - What Jesus Taught His Disciples In Luke 12:22-23:
      - “Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. / The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment!”
  - If Your Life:
    - Is *More Than Things*:
      - Like Food, Clothing, Homes:
        - And Any Other Kind Of Property And Possession You Might Have:
          - Then - What Difference Does It Make:
            - If Someone Takes It From You Or If You Take It From Someone Else?

8. Well - Like We’ve Seen:
- From All Of The Other Commandments So Far:
    - There Is A Deeper Reason:
      - For The Giving Of This Commandment!
        - And That Reason:
          - Involves The Very Nature & Character Of God!

- As It Says In:
  - 2 Timothy 3:16:
    - “All Scripture Is Given By Inspiration Of God, And Is Profitable For Doctrine!”
      - So - This Commandment:
        - Like All Of The Others:
          - Tells Us Something:
            - About God!

9. And - I Believe That:
- One Of The Primary Doctrines:
    - That We Can Glean From This Commandment:
      - Against Stealing:
        - “Thou Shalt Not Steal!”
          - Is This - That:
            - God Is A Good God!
            - And - God Is A Generous God!
    - And God Shows His Goodness & Generosity To Us:
      - In Three Special Ways!

\* The First Way God Shows His Goodness Is That:

**1. God Is The Possessor Of All Things!**

- That Is - Everybody & Everything:
  - Belongs To Him!
    - In Fact - This Is One:
      - Of The Earliest Descriptions Of God:
        - That We Have In The Bible!
  - In Genesis 14:17-24 - After Abraham Rescued His Nephew Lot And Defeated The Four Kings - We Read This:
    - “And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king’s dale. / 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. / **19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:** / 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. / 21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. / **22 And Abram said to the king of**

***Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,*** / 23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldst say, I have made Abram rich: / 24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion!”

- According To Both Abraham & That Mysterious Character Known As Melchizedek:
  - God – “The Most High God” – Who Is:
    - The One, True & Living God:
    - Is The Sole:
      - “Possessor Of Heaven And Earth!”
  - This Means That:
    - God Possesses:
      - ***EVERYTHING!***
    - So That:
      - ***Everything:***
        - Belongs To God!
      - And The Primary Reason For This Is Because:
- He Determined All Things:
  - That Is - He Created All Things!
    - ***IE:*** When Someone Invents Some New Or Improved Widget - They Can Apply For A Patent - To Protect Their Invention From Others Who Might Try To Steal Their Idea! When The Patent Is Granted, It Means That Whatever You Created Belongs Exclusively To You! It Is Your Personal Property - To Do With As You See Fit!
  - Well - In The First Chapters Of Genesis:
    - We Read The Account Of Creation:
      - When God Brought ***To Be:***
        - Everything That ***Now Is:***
          - And He Did So From Nothing!
        - There Were No Patents, Copyrights, Or Trademarks:
          - That Could Be Infringed Upon!
      - And This Includes:
        - Everything Of A Physical & Material Nature As Well!
    - Even As Cecil F. Alexander Once Wrote In His Children’s Poem:
      - All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.
      - Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings.
      - All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.
    - So - By His Own Might:
      - God Became The Possessor Of All Things!
        - But Also:
  - He Disposes All Things:
    - That Is - He Is In Complete Control:
      - Of Everything He Created!
    - At The Very End Of The Bible:
      - In The Apostle John’s Vision Of Heaven:
        - He Hears In Revelation 4:11 - The Four And Twenty Elders Saying To The Lord:
          - “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created!”
    - This Truth Is Echoed Throughout:
      - Both The Old & The New Testaments!

- In Romans 11:36 - Paul Says:
  - “For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen!”
- And Then - In Proverbs 16:4 - We Even Read This Startling Statement:
  - “The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil!”
- So - Because Of His Role:
  - As The Creator Of All Things:
    - It Is His Right:
      - To Dispose Of All Things:
        - According To His Own Pleasure!
    - **IE:** Just Like You - When You Buy A Car - You Have The Legal Right To Use It As You See Fit! You Can Drive It! You Can Display It! You Can Even Put It In A Demolition Derby! Of Course - There Are Always Legal Limits To Using Your Own Property - But There Are No Limits To God!
- Again - As Cecil Alexander Described In His Poem:
  - The rich man in his castle,  
The poor man at his gate,  
He made them, high or lowly,  
And ordered their estate.
  - All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.
- So - By Both His Might & His Right:
  - As The Creator Of All Things:
    - God Is The Possessor Of All Things!  
- There Is Nothing That Lies Outside Of God’s Ultimate Possession!
  - And - How Did God Create Those Things?
    - Well - As We Are Told In The Beginning:
      - Genesis 1:31 - “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good!”
    - So - God Displays His Goodness:
      - By Being:
        - The Possessor Of All Things!

\* But Then - The Second Way God Shows His Goodness Is That:

**2. God Is The Provider Of All Things!**

- This Means That God:
  - Who Is The Possessor Of All Things:
    - In Turn Became:
      - The Generous Giver & The Provider:
        - Of All Things!
    - He Provides For:
      - The Needs Of:
        - This World - That Is Certainly True!
      - But God Especially Provides:
        - For The Needs:
          - Of People - Which Are The Pinnacle Of His Creation:
            - Even Through This World!
      - So - God Has Provided:
        - For Your Natural Needs!
  - In Acts 17 - When The Apostle Paul:
    - Was In The City Of Athens:
      - He Declared & Preached Unto Them:
        - About The One True God!
    - And It Was God:
      - Who - “Made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and

earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; / Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things!" (Acts 17:24-25)

- So - The Life And:
  - The Very Breath You Need:
    - To Sustain Your Life:
      - Is Provided To You:
        - By God!
- And To Just Think About:
  - Everything That Goes Into:
    - The Life That You Have:
      - And The Breath Of Air That You Breathe:
        - Would Boggle Your Mind!
- The Way God Designed:
  - For Human Life:
    - To Begin:
      - Is A Miracle! And:
- The Way God Develops:
  - Air For Our Human Lungs:
    - Is So Complex!
- But - It All Comes To Us:
  - From The Generous Hands:
    - Of God!
- Then Too - In Matthew 5:44-45:
  - Jesus Said - "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; / That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust!"
- God's Natural Provision Of Even Of The Sun And The Rain:
  - That Are Needed To Sustain Life In This World:
    - Reveals His Goodness:
      - Because He Offers It To All Men Indiscriminately:
        - Regardless Of Their Condition Before Him!
- Not Only Has God Provided:
  - For Your Natural Needs:
    - He Has Also Provided:
- For Your Physical Needs!
  - Look With Me At Matthew 6:25-34:
    - Where Jesus Also Said - "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? / 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? / 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? / 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: / 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. / 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? / 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? / 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. / 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. / 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof!"
- Just Think Of All The Practical & Physical Needs:
  - That Jesus Describes In These Verses!
    - Food To Eat!
    - Water To Drink!
    - Clothes To Wear!
- But Now Think Of:

- The **Kind** Of Food:
  - You Get Eat!
- And Even:
  - The **Kind** Of Clothes:
    - You Get To Wear!
- God Is Not A Stingy God!
  - In 1 Timothy 6:17 - The Apostle Paul:
    - Reminds Us That It Is God:
      - “Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy!”
    - God Is Good & God Is Generous!
- And - What’s More:
  - God Has A Reason:
    - For Giving To Us & Providing For Us:
      - In Such Ways!
    - In Romans 2:4 - We Are Told That:
      - It Is The “The Goodness Of God” That “Leadeth Thee To Repentance!”
- And So - God Not Only Provides:
  - For Your Natural & Your Physical Needs:
    - He Also Provides:
- For Your Spiritual Needs!
  - In 2 Peter 1:2-3 - Peter Begins His Letter With These Words:
    - “Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, / According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness!”
    - Not Just Your Physical Life:
      - But Also & Especially:
        - Your Spiritual Life!
  - He Offers & Provides - Through Jesus Christ:
    - His Own Life:
      - On Account Of:
        - Your Spiritual Death!
  - He Offers & Provides:
    - His Own Righteousness:
      - In Place Of:
        - Your Unrighteousness!
  - He Offers & Provides:
    - His Grace:
      - To Help You:
        - In Your Times Of Need!
  - And - He Offers & Provides:
    - Eternal Life & Immortality:
      - To All Who:
        - Turn To & Trust In:
          - The Lord Jesus Christ!
- God Provides For:
  - Our Natural, Our Physical, And Our Spiritual Needs!
    - And By So Doing:
      - He Reveals His Goodness:
        - To Us All!
          - Every Day & In Every Way!
  - So - Not Only Is There:
    - A General Provision:
      - Of God’s Goodness:
        - To His Creation!
  - There Is Also:
    - A Special Provision:
      - Of God’s Goodness:
        - To His Children!
    - So That We Can Respond:

- In The Same Way We Find In Psalm 107:8-9 - “Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! / For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness!”

- God Displays His Goodness:
  - By Being Both:
    - The Possessor Of All Things - And:
    - The Provider Of All Things!

\* But Then - Even Further - God Displays His Goodness In That:

**3. He [God] Is The Protector Of All Things!**

- God Protects:
  - What He Provides:
    - To The People:
      - He Blesses!
  - This Is What We Find Taking Place:
    - In The Commandments:
      - Of The Second Tablet!
    - God Has Endowed:
      - And Provided Us:
        - With Gifts – Good Gifts!
    - Even As Jesus Said In Luke 11:13:
      - “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”
    - And - What God Provides:
      - He Protects!
- In The Sixth Commandment:
  - “Thou Shalt Not Kill” - God Protects:
    - The Gift Of Life:
      - That He Has Given You!
- In The Seventh Commandment:
  - “Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery” - God Protects:
    - The Gift Of Marriage & Family:
      - That He May Bless You With!
    - And So - In A Similar Way:
- In The Eighth Commandment:
  - “Thou Shalt Not Steal” - God Protects:
    - The Gifts Of Property & Possessions:
      - That He Provides To You!
- So That:
  - Even Though These Gifts:
    - Are - In A Sense:
      - Borrowed From God:
        - For A Time!
    - Yet - During That Time:
      - Those Gifts:
        - Really And Truly:
          - Belong To You:
            - To Be Taken Care Of As A Faithful Steward!

**Conclusion:**

1. So - God Designed This World:
  - To Involve:
    - Personal Possessions & Property:
      - That Are Not To Be:
        - Taken Or Stolen:
          - Without Permission Or In An Unjust Fashion!
        - “Thou Shalt Not Steal!”
2. And This Commandment:

- Further Reveals To Us:
  - The Goodness And The Generosity:
    - Of God!
- Though He Alone:
  - Is The Possessor Of All Things:
    - Yet He Became:
      - The Provider Of All Things:
        - Even To Those Who Deserve Nothing!
- And Yet - Along With His Provision:
  - He Is Also The Protector Of All Those Things:
    - That He Gives:
      - By Placing Hedges Around Those Gifts:
        - So That You And I:
          - In Turn - Might Be Faithful Stewards For The Lord!

3. The Gifts:

- That God Has Given You:
  - Whether They Are Of:
    - A Natural, Physical, Or Spiritual Nature:
      - All Reveal:
        - His Goodness!
- So - As We Think About:
  - God's Eighth Commandment:
    - "Thou Shalt Not Steal!"
      - Let Us Respond In Our Hearts With These Words:
        - From Psalm 107:8-9 - "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! / For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness!"

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