

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The Eighth Commandment
“Steal No More”
Exodus 20:15

Introduction:

1. As We Continue Our Sunday Night Series:
 - On The Ten Commandments:
 - Please Turn With Me In Your Bibles Tonight:
 - To A New Testament Passage:
 - From Ephesians 4 - Where:
 - The Apostle Paul Addresses Some Of Those Same Commandments!
 - Beginning In:
 - Ephesians 4:21 - We Read:
 - “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; / And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; / And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness!”
 - And What Does This “Righteousness And Holiness” Involve?
 - 4:25:
 - “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another!”
 - This Is An Echo:
 - Of The Ninth Commandment:
 - “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour!” (Exodus 20:16)
 - Then - Paul Continues In:
 - 4:26-27:
 - “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil!”
 - This Is An Echo:
 - Of The Sixth Commandment:
 - “Thou shalt not steal!” (Exodus 20:13)
 - And We Know This:
 - Because Of Jesus’ Own Exposition:
 - Of The Sixth Commandment:
 - In His Sermon On The Mount In Matthew 5:21-22 - Where He Said:
 - “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill” – “But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment!”
 - But Then - We Come To Ephesians:
 - 4:28 - Where Paul Writes:
 - “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with [his] hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth!”
 - This Is Clearly An Echo:
 - Of The Eighth Commandment:
 - Which Is There On Your Message Guide:
 - “Thou Shalt Not Steal!” (Exodus 20:15)
 - 2. Now - In Paul’s Letter To The Ephesians:
 - He Is Writing To:
 - A Christian Church!
 - Of Course, There May Have Been:
 - Some Jewish Believers In The Congregation:
 - But For The Most Part, It Was Probably A Church:
 - With A Gentile Majority!
 - And - He Does Not Hesitate:
 - To Teach Them:
 - That The Moral Law Of God:
 - The Ten Commandments:
 - Are Still Relevant:

- For Them & For Us!

- Because:

- Not Only Do They:

- Reveal The Will Of God:

- They Reflect The Nature Of God:

- As Well!

3. And - What Kind Of God:

- Is God?

- He Is A Giving God - And:

- A Generous God!

- Even As We Saw Last Sunday:

- So That - There Is Never:

- **Any** Need For A Person To Steal!

- Because - The God:

- Who Is The Possessor Of All Things:

- Is Also The God:

- Who Graciously & Generously Provides All Things:

- To Unworthy Sinners Like Us!

- And Then - He Goes A Step Further:

- And Offers His Own Protection:

- Of Our Possessions:

- By Forbidding Anyone:

- From Taking Those Gifts From Us!

- What A Good:

- And Giving:

And Generous:

- God!

4. And Yet - This Is - Perhaps:

- One Of The Easiest Commandments:

- To Break!

- And - Tonight - We Are Going To See Why!

- The Eighth Commandment:

- May Be The Easiest To Break:

- Because It Is One Of The Most Comprehensive Commandments We Have!

5. It Is Comprehensive:

- In Its Reproof!

- Remember 2 Timothy 3:16 Tells Us That:

- "All Scripture Is Given By Inspiration Of God, And Is Profitable For Doctrine & For Reproof!"

- Well - The Reproof Contained In This Commandment:

- Deals With Any & All Kinds:

- Of Theft!

- Not Only Is Simple Stealing:

- Forbidden:

- By This Commandment:

- Which Is Robbery - Taking For Yourself, By Unlawful Means, Something That Belongs To Another!

- Spoiling Is Also:

- Forbidden:

- By This Commandment:

- Which Is The Misuse Of What Someone Has Given You As A Steward, To Safeguard For Them!

- This Can Be Seen In One Of The Applications:

- Of The Eighth Commandment:

- In Leviticus 6:1-5 - "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, / If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the LORD, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour; / Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein: / Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he

shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found, / Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, [and] give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering!”

- So - There Are Many Different Ways:

- To Steal!

- This Commandment:

- Is Comprehensive:

- In Its Reproof!

- But:

6. It Is Also Comprehensive:

- In Its Range!

- It Applies - Not Only To:

- What God Has Provided Others!

- “Thou Shalt Not Steal” - By:

- Taking And Stealing Anything:

- That Belongs To Someone Else!

- But:

- It Also Applies To:

- What God Has Provided To You!

- “Thou Shalt Not Steal” - By:

- Misusing And Spoiling Anything:

- That Belongs To God!

- And - As We Saw Last Week:

- As The Great “Possessor Of Heaven And Earth”:

- **Everything** Belongs To Him!

- And - **Anything You** Have:

- Has Been Graciously And Generously Lent To You:

- But Only For A Time!

- And - Not Only That - But:

- Your Provision:

- From God:

- Is Closely Aligned With:

- Your Purpose:

- From God!

- And - What Is Your Purpose?

- According To The Very First Question Of The Westminster Shorter Catechism:

- “What Is The Chief End / Purpose Of Man? Answer - Man’s Chief End Is To Glorify God And To Enjoy Him Forever!”

- Everything God Has Given You:

- And Provided To You:

- Is So That You Can Use It & Improve It:

- To Enjoy And Glorify:

- The God Of Heaven:

- More & More!

7. So - Anytime:

- You Take And Steal:

- That Which Belongs:

- To Others - Or - Anytime:

- You Misuse And Spoil:

- That Which Belongs:

- To The Lord:

- You Break:

- The Eighth Commandment:

- “Thou Shalt Not Steal!”

8. So - What Has God Provided Us:

- To Be Stewards Of - And:

- To Use In Our Quest:

- To Glorify And Enjoy Him?

* First - God Has Provided Us:

1. With Our Traits!

- That Is - God Has Given You:
 - Everything:
 - That Makes Up You!
- In Acts 17:25 & 28 - In Paul's Sermon:
 - In Athens - He Proclaimed That God:
 - "Is [Not] worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things!" / "For in him we live, and move, and have our being!"
- The Life And Breath:
 - You Have:
 - Is A Gift From The Lord!
- The Body:
 - You Have:
 - Is A Gift From The Lord!
- The Spirit And Soul:
 - That You Have:
 - That Makes You Different & Distinct:
 - From The Animals In This World!
 - These Too Are Gifts:
 - From The Lord!
- According To Psalm 36:9:
 - God Alone Is:
 - The "Fountain Of Life" - And He Alone:
 - Is The One Who:
 - "Holdeth Our Soul In Life!" (Psalm 66:9)
- And - Why Has God:
 - Provided You With These Traits Of Life?
 - Acts 17:27 - "That they / [we] should seek the Lord, if haply they / [we] might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us!"
 - God Made You And Gave You:
 - The Gift Of Life:
 - So That You Might Have A Relationship With Him:
 - And Glorify Him:
 - With Your Life!
 - And - Anything Less Than This:
 - Is Theft!
- Do Not Deprive God:
 - Of The Glory He's Due:
 - From The Life That He:
 - Has Provided To You!

* Second - God Has Provided Us:

2. With Our Time!

- Not Only Did God Create Time:
 - He Also Gives You:
 - Every Moment:
 - Of Time In Your Life!
- So - From The Moment Of Your Birth:
 - To The Moment Of Your Death:
 - All The Time In Between:
 - Is A Gift!
- In Psalms 31:14 - King David Understood This
 - When He Wrote - "But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou [art] my God. / My times [are] in thy hand!"
 - What Was True For David:

- Is True For You!
- Your Time Is In God's Hand!
 - And - What Are We To Do:
 - With The Time God Has Provided To Us?
 - Ephesians 5:15-16 - "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, / Redeeming the time, because the days are evil!"
 - We Need To Redeem Our Time!
 - To "Redeem" Means:
 - To Reclaim Something Of Value!
 - **IE:** Having Dutch Grandparents, The History & Geography Of Holland Has Always Fascinated Me! The Land Of The Netherlands Has Never Been Stable! "Netherlands" = "Lower Land" – The Geography Has Constantly Changed For Thousands Of Years, As The Sea Took Over More And More Land! In The 10th Century, The Dutch Began To Drain The Soggy, Soupy Land – But It Would Still Flood – Started Making Defenses To Keep Out The Sea! In The 16th Century, The Dutch Went On The Offensive! They Began To Take Land Back From The Sea! They Started To "Reclaim" Land & Continues To Even Today! Today, 20% (1/5) Of All Of The Land Of The Netherlands Is Reclaimed Land!
 - To Reclaim Is To Redeem!
 - And - What The Dutch Did It With Their Land!
 - We Must Do It With Our Time!
- And - What Is The Time Of Your Life For?
 - To Bring Praise & Glory:
 - To The God Who Gave You Your Time!
 - Psalm 34:1 - "I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise [shall] continually [be] in my mouth!"
 - Psalm 115:18 - "But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. Praise the LORD!"
 - To Use The Time God Has Given You:
 - For Anything Less – Is Theft!

* Third - God Has Provided Us:

3. ***With Our Talents!***

- That Is - With The Gifts And Abilities:
 - That Help Us To Live:
 - Enjoyable, Useful, And Productive Lives!
- Some Of These Gifts:
 - Are Physical Gifts:
 - That Pertain To The Physical Qualities You Were Given!
 - Some Are Just Physically Stronger Than Others! Men / Women - "Weaker Vessel" - Relative To The Strength Of Men! (1 Peter 3:7)
- Some Of These Gifts:
 - Are Natural Gifts!
 - There Are Unseen Aptitudes And Abilities:
 - That Can Make Certain People Stand Out From All The Rest!
 - **IE:** Like The Current Nominee For The US Supreme Court - Amy Barrett - Even Those Who Disagree With Her Say That She Possesses A Once-In-A-Generation Legal Mind!
 - How Does This Kind Of Thing Happen?
 - Well - Initially:
 - Its A Natural Gift From God:
 - That Was Then Improved Upon By Her Own Study And Providential Circumstances!
- But - Also - For Believers - Some Of These Gifts:
 - Are Spiritual Gifts!
 - Special Endowments:
 - Given By God To Each Member Of The Church:
 - For The Benefit Of The Church!
- Now - It May Be Possible:

- For A Christian's Spiritual Gifts:
 - To Align With Their:
 - Physical And Natural Gifts:
 - But - It Isn't Always The Case!
 - **IE:** For Example - Someone Who May Be A Grade-School Teacher Before They Are Saved - Is Not Guaranteed To Be Given The Spiritual Gift Of Teaching Within The Church!
 - Or - Someone Who May Be A Natural Leader And Is An Executive In A Company - Is Not Guaranteed To Be Given The Spiritual Gift Of Leadership Within The Church!
- But - No Matter What Gifts You Have Been Given:
 - What Are You To Do With Them?
 - I Think What Paul Told Timothy:
 - In 2 Timothy 1:6 - Can Apply To:
 - All Of Our Talents And Gifts:
 - "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands!"
- God Has Provided You:
 - With Your Gifts And Talents:
 - To Use Them And To:
 - Improve Them:
 - For His Glory:
 - And For The Good Of Others!
 - Are You "Stirring Up" The Talents And Gifts:
 - Given To You By The Lord?
 - Anything Less:
 - Is A Kind Of Theft!

* Fourth - God Has Also Provided Us:

4. With Our Things!

- Of Course - This Is The First Thing:
 - When We Think About:
 - Stealing & The Eighth Commandment!
 - Our Traits & Time & Talents:
 - Are All Intangible Gifts!
 - But Our Things:
 - Are The Tangible Gifts:
 - Given To Us By The Lord!
 - And - Physical, Material Things:
 - Are Important For:
 - Physical Creatures:
 - Like Us!
 - So - Much Of God's Giving And Blessing:
 - In Our Lives:
 - Involves Things!
- Things To Sustain!
 - In 1 Timothy 6:6-8 - Paul Wrote:
 - "But godliness with contentment is great gain. / For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. / And having food and raiment let us be therewith content!"
 - Now - Of Course:
 - The Priority Paul Gives To Us In These Verses:
 - Is The Right Priority!
 - Godliness Is Number One:
 - Along With Contentment!
 - But - He Still Recognizes The Necessity:
 - Of Certain Material Things:
 - Like Our "Food And Raiment!"
 - Because Even Those:
 - Are God's Gifts To Us!

- But - What We **Think** About:
 - Those Sustaining Gifts:
 - And How We **Feel** About Them:
 - Will Reveal A Lot:
 - About What's Really Our Priority & What's Really Going On In Our Hearts!
- So - God Gives Us Things:
 - To Sustain Us - And To:
 - Provide For Our Needs!
 - But - He Also Gives Us:
- Things To Share!
 - God Wants You To Be:
 - As Giving And Generous:
 - With **Your** Things:
 - As He Is - With **His**!
 - We See This In:
 - Matthew 5:38-42 - "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: / But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. / And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have [thy] cloke also. / And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. / Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away!"
- Is This How You Think About:
 - And Treat:
 - Your Things?
 - After All:
 - Why Do You Have:
 - The Things You Have?
 - It Is So That You Can:
 - According To Proverbs 3:9:
 - "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase!"
 - Are You Honoring God:
 - With The Things:
 - He Has Given You?
 - To Sustain Yourself And Your Family:
 - As Well As:
 - To Share With And Meet The Needs Of Others?
 - To Do Any Less:
 - Is Theft!

* Fifth - God Has Also Provided Us:

5. With The Truth!

- There Is:
 - A General Revelation:
 - That God Has Given:
 - To All Men!
 - But - What Did We Do:
 - With That Truth?
 - Romans 1:20-21 - "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: / Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened!"
 - This Misuse:
 - Of God's Truth:
 - Is Theft!
 - It Takes The Gift Of His Knowledge:
 - And Tramples It Underfoot! But Also:

- There Is:
 - A Special Revelation:
 - That God Gives:
 - Through His Word!
 - And - He Impresses This Truth:
 - In The Hearts Of His People - With Power!
 - Just Like He Did:
 - In The Thessalonian Church - To Whom Paul Wrote:
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:5 - "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance!"
 - So Now - What Are We To Do:
 - With The Gift Of God's Truth?
 - 1 Peter 3:15 - "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear!"
- To Misuse:
 - The Truth God Has Given Us:
 - Is Theft - But:
 - To Keep To Ourselves:
 - The Truth God Has Told Us To Share With Others:
 - Is No Less Theft!

Conclusion:

1. Of Course - We Have Been Given:
 - So Much More:
 - From Our Giving & Generous God!
 - So That:
 - There Is No Need:
 - For Us To Ever Take And Steal Anything From:
 - Someone Else!
2. But - **That** Kind Of Theft:
 - Is Not Usually Our Problem!
 - And That Is Why - Our Focus Tonight:
 - Has Been More On:
 - Stealing From God:
 - Than - Stealing From Others!
 - But - To Steal From God:
 - By Misusing Or Wasting:
 - His Provision:
 - Is Still Theft!
 - Because - All That He Has Given You:
 - Was So That:
 - You Might Use It:
 - For His Own Glory:
 - And For The Good Of Others!
 - 3. So - What Have You Been:
 - Stealing And Holding Back From The Lord?
 - Your Traits & Your Life?
 - Your Time Or Your Talents?
 - Your Things And His Truth?
 - Remember:
 - Ephesians 4:28:
 - "Let Him That Stole Steal No More!"
 - 4. If You Have Stolen From The Lord:
 - The Only Solution:
 - Is The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - And His Gospel!
 - To Him:

- You Must Confess! So That:
- In Him:
- You Can Find Forgiveness And Assistance:
- To Go And “Steal No More!”

4. And - Instead:

- Use & Improve His Gifts:
- So That You Can:
 - “Glorify God In Your Body, And In Your Spirit, Which Are God’s!” (1 Corinthians 6:20)

Grace Baptist Church

Stephen Elmer, Pastor

4245 North 200 West

Greenfield, Indiana 46140

317-326-2362

www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace

www.growatgrace.org

pastor-elmer@hotmail.com