

10 February 2019

## Beware – Pt 4 (Final)–Beware, take heed of covetousness

This is our fourth and final study on our topic – Beware. In our previous teaching we encouraged you to (1) beware of evil workers, (2) beware of men who spoil you, and (3) beware lest ye be led away with the error of the wicked. In this study we beseech you to (1) beware of covetousness, (2) think nothing of yourselves but take heed lest ye fall, and (3) take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Take heed, and beware of covetousness.

“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Lk.12: 15).

Our verse explains why we are to beware of covetousness “for a man's life consisteth not in abundance of the thing which he possesseth” (Lk.12: 15).

What is covetousness? It is the act of coveting and the law states – “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house..thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything thing that is they neighbours” (Ex.20: 17). It “is idolatry” (Col.3: 5).

How do we show that we take heed of covetousness? – by being “content with such thing as ye have” (Heb.14: 5). How do you “let your conversation be without covetousness”? See our next point.

### 2. Think nothing of yourselves but take heed lest ye fall.

“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor.10: 12),

When you think you are high and mighty, when you think are something when you are not then when you converse with someone else your conversation will be with covetousness, and the result is you will fall. Beware, take heed lest ye fall – do so by thinking nothing of yourselves. What is the fruit of a covetous conversation? See our next point.

### 3 Take heed that ye be not consumed one of another

“if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another” (Gal.5: 15).

The fruit of a covetous conversation is biting and devouring one another, and being consumed one of another, and that is our third point – beware, that ye be not consumed one of another.

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

I remember my first sales trip away when I joined E.C.Gough where I visited customers with the company engineer and sales manager. There was one meeting that I have never forgotten where our company engineer was conversing with the customer (himself an engineer) and I and the sales manager sat and watched these two engineers rigorously debate technical points where then both raised their voices and spoke over the other, and they both sought their own glory.

Question to think about.

Paul was given the gospel of Christ, by which when a man believes he is saved, with such a life-changing revelation from God, how did Paul not covert the glory associated with such a revelation?

Our answer from the scriptures.

Paul took “thou shalt nor covet they neighbour's house” or his wife through to his conversation. He sought not his own but other men's wealth (1 Cor 10:24), he did nothing through vain glory, but in lowliness of mind, esteemed others better than himself (Phil.2: 3). He did not allow his knowledge to puff him up (1 Cor.8: 1) as did our engineer, he did not wear a cloak of covetousness (1Thes 2:5), and God sent him a messenger of Satan to buffet him. He took heed of covetousness, he thought nothing of himself, and took heed not to be consumed one of another, and was aware to desire nothing, nor glory in anything, save in the cross of Christ (Gal.6: 14).