

Gripped By Greed

submitted by Bro. T. C. Hales
(deceased)

"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house." (Proverbs 15:27).

Advertisers constantly appeal to consumer greed, trying to convince us that we need their products.

An executive of an electronics firm boasted that his company had created the demand for transistor radios. He said, "When we introduced pocket radios years ago, nobody needed them, so they didn't sell. We had to convince the consumer that he needed our products. Sales have boomed ever since."

The desire for more and more money, things or power isn't unique to the

20th century. Thousands of years ago, Gehazi, Elisha's servant, saw a chance to get money from wealthy Naaman. He would be able to buy clothing, olive groves, vineyards, sheep and oxen, and servants. (II Kings 5:26). Greed took over.

Greed can drive us unmercifully and tarnish our integrity. For example, I know some Christian professionals who work hard and make lots of money, but the raises they give their staff are small. In another situation, a Christian earns more than \$200,000 a year, but some of his practices are unethical.

Is it greed that motivates these otherwise good people?

We are all susceptible to the powerful grip of greed. We must often pray, "Lord, help me to be most concerned about how I can please You, not how I can gain more for myself." - D.J.D.

*If money is your highest goal,
The thing you long to gain,
Its power will enslave your soul
And cause your life much pain.
D.J.D.*

GREEDY PEOPLE ALWAYS LOSE
MORE THAN THEY GAIN.

***"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid." John 14:27***

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Busy for God

by Dr. E. Vance Culpepper
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“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).

Gold Beach, Oregon is one place I will never forget. While pastor there, I worked for awhile for one of the largest highway construction companies in the world, Peter Kiewit Construction Company. Initially, I jumped stakes for a road grader, then later did what they referred to as “playing billygoat.” Then for a much longer period, I was a flagman (that was in the early 1960s; now flagger is the common term).

One dark night when there was absolutely no traffic around at all, a heavy equipment operator came rumbling up on his D 9 Cat. This burly fellow walked over to me, pointed up into a beautiful star-lit sky, and said something to the effect that how anyone on the face of the Earth could look up at the heavens and say there was no God was beyond his comprehension. I agreed wholly with him, but was indeed surprised by this encounter.

His words reminded me of what the psalmist said in the Bible, “The heavens declare the glory of God.” It also called to memory what was said there about the one who said there was no God. “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”

Some of you who are reading this know that I have been a minister al-

most 60 years. I do not intend to preach a sermon, but I have had some interesting experiences as a pastor. I once invited a man to church. He said that I would not want an agnostic there. I told him anyone willing to come and listen was welcome. He came—many times. Also, I was once asked to do a graveside service for a man. I try to make it a policy to meet with the family if possible, to learn more about the individual. I called his son for information. The most I got out of him was, “Basically he was an atheist.” That was not what I was hoping to hear.

Some doubt there is a God, but are not sure. Others do not believe there is a Heavenly Father. Some time ago, I received an email that I appreciated titled, “God’s Busy.” I share it here:

A U.S. Marine was attending college between assignments. He had completed missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist and a member of the ACLU. One day the professor shocked the class when he came in, looked to the ceiling and flatly stated, “God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I’ll give you exactly 15 minutes.” The classroom fell silent. One could hear

a pin drop.

Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, “Here I am God. I’m still waiting.” It got down to the last couple of minutes when the Marine got out of his chair, went up to the teacher and cold-cocked him, knocking him off the platform. The professor was out cold.

The marine went back to his seat and sat there, silently. The other students were shocked, stunned, and sat there looking on in silence. The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the Marine and asked, “What the heck is the matter with you? Why did you do that?” The Marine calmly replied, “I think God was too busy today protecting American soldiers who are protecting your right to say stupid stuff and act like an idiot. So, He sent me.”

About the time I started seminary, the “God is dead” promoter-speakers surfaced. Billy Graham’s classic statement was to the effect that he knew this was not true, for he had talked to Him just that morning. It is as true now as ever: if one does not know God, he should not make stupid remarks.

May we never be too busy for God, but busy for God!

I am afraid that the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures

and engraving them in the heart of the youth.”

— Martin Luther