

Avarice

“And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? 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. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God”, Luke 12:13–21.

First and foremost, this was anything but a reasonable request, for it was a ‘dispute’ between two brothers regarding the estate of their parents. It was, therefore, a ‘worldly’ dispute, and not a dispute requiring settlement by one of God’s ministers.

Secondly, the request showed anything but love, yet the aggrieved person went to the person who was personifying the nature of God’s love.

Dear reader, please take note of the highlighted words, “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”, Luke 12:15.

Like many other people I have received the following style of email over the last two years or so.

Various men and ladies, claiming that they have got my address from the web site have sent emails requesting me to allow them to send me a huge sum of money that has been entrusted to them.

Why, I ask, would these people allegedly trust me because they had found my name on the internet?

I do not know them, so I do not respond to their email. Since they do not know me, why should they be surprised when I do not answer?

God has given His People the spirit of wisdom or the spirit of perception that they should see that this is nothing more than a trap to swindle the recipient of all his money.

For many of the people in the Church today, it is take, take, and let’s take again.

So how does the dictionary define Avarice? The answer is “an excessive desire of gain; greediness after wealth; covetousness; a desire to accumulate ones possessions – at the expense of others”.

What did Jesus say to the man? “Life is not all about abundant possessions”. Jesus could well have continued, ‘Covetousness is not living, it’s scheming at another’s cost.’

Thus, Avarice is an insatiable desire for more: more, and more – so long as it has not come from your own pocket .– for the word ‘enough’ is not in their vocabulary, and whilst they may have enough for the moment, the desire ‘I want...’ soon re-enters their life style.

What I believe that our Lord wanted us to learn here is that life IS NOT WHAT YOU POSSESS, but TO HAVE A RELIANCE UPON THE FATHER’S ABUNDANT MERCIES.

The majority of people in this world today have long, sad looking expressions on their faces.

It is because they are not able to observe the priceless durability of God’s Gifts, neither can they be satisfied, for their greed will feed upon their greed, and it will never have a lasting value.

Man has a soul. No man’s soul can survive without the spirit. Which spirit do you have? The Spirit of God – or the spirit of carnality?