

## THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

*Terry Joe Kee*

*“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.”  
(Exodus 20:17)*

The tenth commandment takes into account the inner thoughts of a man's heart. In some respects this is the most difficult command of the entire decalogue. In some ways this is a summary of all the others. Covetousness as defined is “to desire inordinately; to long for that which is unlawful to obtain and possess.” It can be used in a good sense (I Cor. 12:31), but that is not the common usage of the word. Commonly it is a word which carries the idea of desiring that to which we have no right (as in the ten commandments). It is the idea of desiring more than what one needs or more than one can use, like the rich fool (Luke 12:13-21). It is putting gain above God, putting the secular above the spiritual.

Why is it wrong to covet? Well, covetousness kills contentment. Remember Ahab and Naboth's vineyard (I Kings 21). But also remember that covetousness leads to more wrongdoing. Coveting someone's wife leads to adultery or coveting someone's goods leads to stealing. Covetousness is such a danger because it eats away at the inner man. It is a cancer that may begin small and be removed easily, but letting it grow and go without removing it will eventually destroy the entire body.

Look back at the ten commandments and notice that covetousness will lead one to break every one of these commandments. How does idolatry begin? By desiring something or someone other than God and placing it above God leads to self-worship and craving those things that are sinful. Or it may not be a graven image, but perhaps an office one desires to have at all costs or whatever in one's mind is worshiped above and before God. God's name is taken in vain when one will swear falsely because he is coveting something he seeks to obtain, such as often happens in divorce court. Why was the Sabbath day disregarded except that someone coveted something he wanted to do that day (cf. Neh. 13:17-21; Amos 8:5). Children disobey their parents because they selfishly desire to go in a direction that is against what they have been taught. Jesus condemned this attitude (Mark 7:8-13). Men often kill because of covetousness because one does not want anyone standing in the way of his doing whatever he desires to do or have. Every society sinks to being animals when they leave healthy monogamous relationships and enter adultery and fornication. Stealing stems from covetousness. “I want it and I'll take it by whatever means are necessary” is the attitude of thieves. Men bear false witness because they are willing to garb themselves in lies to gain something by falsifying or withholding the truth. All of this kind of covetousness is suicide to any community or country. Look at what is happening to our nation and notice how covetousness is contributing to the downfall of the United States, just as it has broken many once great nations.

Covetousness has long been a curse upon God's people. Achan (Joshua 7) says I saw it, I coveted it, I took it and I hid it and he could have added “and I died because of it.” It was a cancer in Israel that had to be removed or the entire nation would have died. Why did Israel have to go into Babylonian captivity? It was this same cancer that was eating away at them (Jer. 6:10-13). Jeremiah said that from the least of them to the greatest of them they were given to covetousness and would go into captivity. Jesus warned the Pharisees of covetousness, but they scoffed at Him because they were so covetous (Luke 14:1-14). What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? It was covetousness (Acts 6). God twice passed the death penalty upon this couple and it was for covetousness.

All who are covetous have the curse of God resting upon them. God abhors covetousness. Look at Psalm 10:3 “For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, *whom* the LORD abhorreth.” If you think this is not such a bad sin, just take a minute and read the following passages (Micah 2:1-3; Hab. 2:9-11). And before you say, “Oh well, that was the Old Testament and we are not under that covenant,” just stop and read (Eph. 5:5,6; I Cor. 5:11; 2 Tim. 3:1-5). This is by no means some small sin that we can just overlook and not worry about. Breaking this commandment has dire consequences. It did under the law of Moses and it still does today.

What is the cure for covetousness? There is one. God gives it to us. It is all about everyone who is in Christ being a new creature (cf. Eph. 4:17-32; Col. 3:23,24). How wonderful it is when a doctor can come into the room of a cancer patient and say, “Your cancer is cured!” And, how great is the joy to the Christian's heart when it knows it has consecrated itself and all of its possessions to the Lord Jesus Christ? This opens one up to living a life of loving service for God and men.

## A MAN NEVER HAD SUCH A GOOD FRIEND

*Author Unknown*

A man – a brother in Christ – has slipped away and fallen seriously into sin. Though he was once growing and active in the Lord's service, now he is distant, unconcerned, and clearly pursuing a different agenda.

His brethren see his condition. They are aware of the spiritual danger he is in. All signs point to the fact that he is heading down a path to eternal ruin.

Out of love for his soul, and with knowledge of their own duty in such matters (Galatians 6:1,2) his brothers and sisters in Christ reach out to this erring one. They are crushed to think that one who once worked hand-in-hand with them in the Lord's service could now be so alienated from them and God. They humbly try to encourage him, reminding him of things he already knows – but has chosen to ignore. They plead with him to “repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee” (Acts 8:22).

And, what is the response from this brother in desperate need of rescue? Too often the response is one of bitter animosity and resentment. Instead of looking inwardly and humbly admitting his sins, he lashes out at those who are trying to help him. He has harsh words of criticism and disdain for them. His effort is to deflect attention away from his own sins, and place focus on what he perceives as the failings of others.

What this man fails to realize is that he never had such good friends as these fellow Christians who are committed to help him and restore him to a right relationship with God. It would have been easier – much easier – to look the other way and ignore the situation all together. Let him go – clear his name off the ‘church roll’ – and proceed as though nothing significant had happen. But love will not allow this. He is a brother – a friend – and they cannot, will not, let him go without a fight for his soul. Truly, he never had such friends as these.

## NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

*Stacy Williams* had a Watchman procedure on Monday and is now home and improving.

*Marshall Lands* is confined at home and having physical therapy at home now.

*Gary London, son of Virginia*, is recovering from hip surgery at Arkansas Continued Care Hospital.

*Sheryl Taylor* is suffering with sciatic nerve pain and is hoping a shot will give her relief soon.

*Hershel Colbert*, a cousin to Myra Morris and Craig Nelson, is in ICU at NEA Baptist.

*Olga Culver* had a heart cath on Monday and a stent after suffering a heart attack Sunday.

*Please continue to pray for all of these and others who are at home recovering from recent surgeries, confinement, or bereavement.*

## IN OTHER NEWS:

“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)

*Ukraine Missions Buckets:* February items are antibiotic cream, baby powder, and disposable razors.

*Congregational Surveys:* Please pick one up from a table in the foyer, fill it out, and place it on the desk in the office.

*New Family Bible Study Questions* are on the *Missions Table* in the foyer for everyone to pick up and use.

### Those Privileged To Serve

February 20, 2022

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard  
Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer  
Closing Prayer: Jeff Presley  
Bible Reading: Scott Pratt  
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Ben Johns  
Mike Felts Reginald Read  
David Loggins James Johnson  
Tom Carner Carlos Wood

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Nichols

#### SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Kevin Roush  
Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson  
Closing Prayer: Hal Baugh  
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

February 23, 2022

Song Leader: Randy Oden  
Opening Prayer: Mark Wooten  
Closing Prayer: James Johnson

#### DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

February 23, 2022

Dan Nichols

### NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

February 13, 2022

Sunday Bible Study	88
Sunday AM Worship	109
Sunday PM Worship	95
Wednesday Bible Study	97
Contribution	\$5637

**“A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.”**

**Proverbs 27:3**

# The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

Vol. XXX, No. 8

February 20, 2022

## Keep Notes

It is a blessing that over the past few weeks many things have begun to settle down and we are able to get back to some sort of normal. It is truly a blessing that we have been able to continue meeting throughout all the controversy surrounding this pandemic. I know that some have not agreed with every decision at every time along the way, but more often than not, everyone has continued to do his best and keep his eyes on the goal. We have worked through some bumps in the road, but we have not given up or quit. Let us all work to keep “the unity of the faith in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:1-6).

Our evening attendance has been up over the past several weeks and that is truly a good sign. When the evening attendance is up it shows a real interest by many to walk in the light. Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings are good times to recharge our batteries and continue to face life each day. This also shows growth in some who are becoming more faithful and dedicated to the Lord's work.

It is also a blessing to have several visitors who have been coming and worshipping with us. Several who are not members of the church of Christ are sitting and hopefully being encouraged and taught a more perfect way.

The directories for 2022 are finished and available for every family. It is hard for me not to notice that we have 99 family units in our directory. That is 99 families who have been and are identified as members of the church here. I counted and it is somewhere around 170 people who are listed. Therefore, it makes me wonder why, as good as attendance has been, do we not have more? Just because you see a name listed in the directory does not mean someone is a faithful, dedicated member of the body of Christ meeting on Old Greensboro Road.

Over the coming months let us all commit to getting everyone who identifies with the church present. How wonderful it would be if we could get everyone coming to every service, every week. If schools only had 60 percent of the students showing up there would be panic. Should we be panicking?

### SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols  
Randy Oden

### DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard  
Jerry Dodson  
Stacy Eddleman  
Mike Felts  
Jason Garland  
Scott Pratt  
Kevin Roush  
Mark Wooten

### EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

### MISSIONARIES

Samrit Kammanee,  
Southeast Asia  
Micah Robertson,  
Montana  
Warren, PA

### SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

#### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear** the Word of God  
*Romans 10:17*

**Believe** the Word of God  
*John 8:24*

**Repent** of your sins  
*Luke 13:3*

**Confess** your faith in Jesus as the Son of God  
*Romans 10:9,10*

**Be Baptized** for the remission of your sins  
*Acts 2:38*

**Live faithfully**  
*Revelation 2:10*

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

**Living Anew In 2022**

Visit Our Website: [greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com](http://greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com)