INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus, in our text, warns us to take heed and beware of covetousness.
2. God said in the law of Moses -- Ex. 20:7 “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant; nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor’s.”

COVETOUSNESS: Inordinately desirous of something belonging to another person; greedy of gain; a lover of money -- 2 Tim. 3:2; I Tim. 3:3

3. The Lord “abhorreth” the covetous -- Psa. 10:3

4. "Covetousness"-- Paul said, "Let it not be once named among saints"-- Eph. 5:3

5. A "covetous" person cannot go to heaven -- I Cor. 6:10

I. WHAT CAN A MAN COVET?

1. Paul said a man could covet gold, silver, and apparel -- Acts 20:33
   (1) Achan, in the Old Testament, coveted all three -- Joshua 7:21
   (2) Men today covet money and apparel that belongs to others.

2. A man can covet his neighbor’s house -- Ex. 20:17

3. A man can covet his neighbor’s wife -- Ex. 20:17; Matt. 5:28

4. A man can covet his neighbor’s ox, ass, or cattle -- Ex. 20:17

5. High positions can be coveted -- Mark 10:35-45

6. Time that belongs to God in His service:
   (1) Not attending Bible study, Wednesday and Sunday morning, and not coming on Sunday night -- John 4:23; Heb. 10:25

7. Money that belongs to God -- Mal. 3:10; I Cor. 16:1-2
   (1) Men rob God by withholding part, and not giving as much as they should.

II. THE FRUITS OF COVETOUSNESS

   (1) OPPRESSION -- Jacob at the hand of Laban -- Gen. 31:7 -- Rich men oppress their laborers -- James 5:1, 4
   (2) It blinds one to the source of wealth -- Luke 12:16-21

2. Covetousness caused David to commit adultery and to murder -- 2 Sam. 11:1-5


4. Covetousness caused the rich man to be unmerciful -- Luke 16:19-28

5. Covetousness robs churches of Power and Strength.
   (1) The potential of every congregation is greatly lessened because of this sin.

III. HOW COVETOUSNESS CAN BE PUT TO DEATH -- Col. 3:5

1. Covetousness comes from the heart -- Mark 7:20-23
   (1) Therefore, we must keep our thinking right to overcome this sin.
2. We overcome covetousness by seeking first the Kingdom of God -- Matt. 6:33
3. We must learn to put trust in God, rather than in material things -- Heb. 13:5; I Tim. 6:17
   (1) God will supply your physical needs -- Matt. 6:25 - 26, 30; Psa. 103:2; James 1:17

CONCLUSION
1. Christians should be warned against covetousness.
2. The fate of the sin of covetousness -- I Cor. 6:9 - 10

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