

The Marriage Covenant #10

(The Tenth Commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Covet")

Sunday November 19, 2000

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Let us remain standing while we read from the Word of God.

***EXODUS 20:17** 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.*

This morning we have taken our text from EXODUS 20:17 *Thou Shalt not Covet....* This is number 10 in our Marriage Covenant series and we shall deal with the Tenth Commandment, *Thou Shalt Not Covet.*

To begin our study of this tenth commandment, I would like to ask the question, "what does the word Covet mean? When we are told thou shalt not Covet, what does it mean "to covet?" _____.

The word used here is a Hebrew Word chamad (khaw-mad) and it simply means to desire, to covet or to take pleasure in. The Hebrew word is not so explicit, but the Greek Word is very explicit.

***ROMANS 7:7 ¶** What shall we say then? [Is] the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. 8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment,*

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wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin [was] dead.

Now, this word Paul used is a Greek word *epithumeo* and is made up of two words, *epi* meaning in front of and *thumos* meaning passion, and anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again. Together the word *epithumeo* means --to desire -- to covet -- to lust for -- lust after -- to fain or to turn upon a thing, to have a desire for, long for, to desire; to lust after, covet, of those who seek things forbidden

In other words, and inordinate affection for something that does not belong to you.

Paul warns us that this inordinate affection has a power to take you over even against your better judgment. There he commands us to cast it aside.

COLOSSIANS 3:4 When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 ¶ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Webster tells us that the word **Covet** means *to want ardently, something that someone else has, to long for with envy.* And the word is a synonym for greed. A person that covets is a greedy person. And God condemns it and as Paul said, *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth;* and then he names

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several of which, *inordinate affection*, (is one of them). *and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

Notice then, it is considered idolatry which is the same as adultery. And notice how Paul uses idolatry and adultery or fornication in the same example of those things which we need to mortify in our flesh.

Again, he said, *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

Again we hear him say this in **GALATIANS 5:19**, Paul says, *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,...*

Notice how he ties again fornication and lasciviousness or covetousness together? Why, because the same lustful spirit is in control of both of these emotions. These are sins where the emotion controls the action.

And then in verse 21 after naming these manifestations of sin in the flesh, Paul says, *of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

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Therefore, we see that not only will those who covet not inherit the kingdom of God, but as Paul also pointed out in **Colossians 3: 6** he said, *6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

Therefore there are two major reasons why we should never covet and they are number 1, it is cause for rejection and number 2 it is cause for wrath.

EXODUS 20:17 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.

Not their house, their spouse, not their help whether male or female, not their ox which is their means of livelihood, nor their ass which is their means of transportation. In fact God finishes by saying, *Thou shalt not covet anything belonging to thy neighbor period.*

Now, remember, during this entire study of the Ten Commandments, we have found that these ten laws or rules were not meant to be a set of does and don't as if we could become righteous through doing them. But we have found these Ten Commandments are a set of ten rules to govern our relationship with God and man. And since they are rules for relationship we have taken this time in this study to show how they apply to the relationship of a man and a woman joined together in Holy Matrimony.

Now, remember, these rules are for the establishing and maintaining of a relationship

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between two people, joined together, united together to share a life and home together. And yet we find this tenth and last warning going forth that says, be very careful not to begin lusting after what other people have. The first of the Commandments of God and the second as well began by warning us that we should have no other, and now we find Omega rule pointing back to the Alpha rule and saying it in perhaps different words, but the same message as the first. In other words, as we saw in the first and second Commandment, we see it in the last, "GET YOUR EYES OFF OF EVERYTHING THAT DOES NOT PERTAIN TO YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE."

Covetousness, Greed, these are things which can destroy a marriage as fast as adultery and deceit. Keeping up with the Joneses.

FAITH IS OUR VICTORY 58-1004 E-8
Now, there is so many people that doesn't seem to have any kind of a purpose in life, especially in this day that we now live. People just seem to think that all they have to do is to keep up with somebody else, with the fashions of the world, and with the enticements that the world has given to them. Just like this, if you go to school and some of the little girls wear a certain little frock, or dress, or whatever you would call it, all the ambition the rest of the school has is to pattern after that girl. Some of the women see on the television some certain lady come out and dressed in a certain fashion, well, that's their ambition is to dress and to act like that. And that seems to be just about the limit of the American ambition is to get a new job, or to get a raise in your salary, and to get a television, or a new car.

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E-9 Let me say this, those things may be all right, but there's higher ambitions in the human life than those things. And Christians should set their affection on higher ambitions. I think it would pay us all to set down and wonder why we are here in the first place. And ever Who was kind enough to bring us here, we ought to consider it, and ask Him what He would have us to do, the purpose of us coming to fulfill, what He has purposed for us. But we seem to be just wanting to keep up with the world. Now, the Bible said, that we could overcome the world. And how do we do it? Not by keeping up with the fashions of the world, but the Bible said that faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

E-10 It reminds me of one time that... I don't like to say this word, but he was just a bum that came to the door. And he said, "Could you give me a--a sandwich?" I said, "Certainly, would you step in." And instead of making him a sandwich, I thought I'd fix him something to eat. And fixed him up just about what I could around the place, and set him down to eat. And while he was eating, I thought I would speak to him, seeing that he was a--a traveler, and I said, "Where did you come from?" He just shrugged his shoulders a little and said, "Nowhere." I said, "Then where are you going?" And he stopped eating and looked up at me, and said, "Nowhere." He looked around and swallowed a big bite, and he said, "Sir, just where my hat's resting, there's where I rest." I said, "I see." I said, "How long have you been doing this?" He said, "Oh, some twenty years or more." With no ambitions to--to better hisself...

E-11 Now, that's just about the attitude of the people. Just what I call, "drifters, floaters."

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And the people who join the church is just about the same. I've often thought of floating, driftwood. A driftwood, it just hangs up in any kind of trash. That's just about the way that floaters does in the church or anywhere. Now, you take on a stream, like the stream of life, and plenty of driftwood hanging up in every trash pile, and yet, the boat comes along made out of wood too. But if you notice the wood is made and shaped out by a master, who has built the boat. Not only is it shaped out, but it is guided by a master, and it is pushed by a power. And we're all made out of the same stuff. It just depends on how your ambitions run.

E-12 Are you willing to let the master craftsman make out of you, that which He could use, and that which He could control, and that which He could power. If this certain little craft, that's been made different and been craft out by the Master's hand, should ever stick into some weeds along in shallow waters, there is a power behind it, a little boat that the Master can turn on and push it out into the deep waters again. God wants to mold and make us what He wants us to be. But how can we do that, or how can God do that, when we won't even stand still for Him to do it. We want to be our own master. We want to think our own way of thinking. And many people come into the church, and join the church, and put their name on the book, and doesn't even consider what that church believes, or check up with that church, how they preach the Word of God, or whether they stand for the full Gospel or not, or just pick out a portion and add a creed, floating, drifting, and never be able to amount to anything.

E-13 But let me tell you something, tonight, you on the in and outside of this building,

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"You're going to wind up at a destination one of these days, that's going to be in the valley of the shadows of death. I would advise you at this hour, to prepare to meet the God that will have to meet you at that hour. You'll either meet Him as a masterpiece that He has worked on, or a floating piece of driftwood to go into your final destination. So don't you use this life just to drift around and float around, and--and get a better job, and to dress better, and to get a new television, or--or a better car. Life means more than that. Don't you try to use it just to say, "Well, I... If the rest of the them join church, I will too."

E-14 When you join church, you should first seek out, and find out what that church stands for. Is it just merely a place that the people go together for fellowship, or is it a place that preaches the Word of the living God, and stands for every principle that Jesus died for? You should do that. Just don't float in and go with the tide, because, "Straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth to life, and but few there'll be that'll go there in thereat. Because broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many will there be go in." We've got to have a purpose of something. Now, it wasn't so in days gone by or in this day, that when a man come to God, he had a purpose of doing it. If your purpose is just to drift with that congregation, or is it to look up toward God?

ROMANS 13:1 ¶ Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to

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the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to [execute] wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore [ye] must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 ¶ Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute [is due]; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. 8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if [there be] any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love [is] the fulfilling of the law. 11 ¶ And that, knowing the time, that now [it is] high time to awake out of sleep: for now [is] our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to [fulfil] the lusts [thereof].

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ONCE MORE 63-1117 130 *Samson stood, thinking of his great victories. Let's look back and see the great early Pentecostal victories. You don't have to look plumb back two thousand years ago; just look back fifty years ago. And, remember, the Roman Catholic church was first the Pentecostal church. And they say that the church was borned, and that the Roman church was borned at Nicaea, Rome. I want Scripture for that. The first church never begin at Nicaea, Rome. The first church begin in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Oh, a victim of all the errors... Oh.*

131 *Then when he realized where he was standing, when he realized what would happen... As I said, I may never see you again. I don't know. This may be my last Message to you. I may, if I... If the Lord permits, and I come back next year, we all won't be here. No. Some of us will be gone. And each time I must speak as if it was our last time; 'cause it is, some of us. It may be my last time. What a condition it is, a error. And if we would only stop like Samson did and think just a moment of what we are supposed to be by God's Bible. Not a great big something, not a going, keeping up with the Joneses, but a humble, reverent, Spirit-filled little group of people: not shining; glowing. Hollywood shines; the Gospel glows. See? We want something shiny, the biggest churches we've ever had. We'd be better off, we stood down at the alley, in a storeroom, and have the Spirit of God back on us again. That's right. Notice.*

134 *And as he stood there and realized, and his hair had begin to grow out again; but he could not be effective, because he didn't have any eyes. And he cried, "Lord, revenge my eyes. They've put my eyes out." They're... Today I*

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might say, the creeds... "They sent me to a seminary. And the call that was in my heart of the living God, they punched all that out of me, saying, 'Those things was for another age.'" "Revenge my eyes." What was Samson thinking? "There was a possibility. Perhaps... Jehovah's full of love. He... It-it might be possible that He would hear me." Oh, I wish I could get Samson to wake to that tonight. There is a possibility. He's full of love, forgiving the iniquity of His people from generation to generation, showing mercies to thousands that love Him and keep His commandments.

138 *"There's a possibility," Samson thought, "if I'd only get revenge of my eyes. I can't see those things no more. They don't happen." We can't see the great Holy Spirit in our great organizations, moving like It did at the beginning. It's gone. See, it isn't there. It's blind and don't know it. Jesus said it would be that way,*

this Laodicea church age. 'Rich, say, 'I am rich, and increased in goods, and have need of nothing.' And don't know that thou art naked, blind, miserable, and poor, and don't know it.'" See, don't know it. Well, we had a slogan out, "1944, a million more," a certain organization. And though the ministry of great men, they've had a million more what? Joiners. That's right.

141 *He knew there was a possibility, but the thing of it is today, the people don't seem to come conscious that there is a possibility. They're satisfied to go right on down the old trend they're going. See, don't do that. Believe God. Have faith in Him. Now, they say... Oh, they, "We'll set tight." That's right. "We clap our hands, and--and everything, and shout." But you was all sails and no anchor. See? How*

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can you clap your hands and shout, and deny the Word being the Truth? How can you clap your hands and shout, and the Holy Spirit will walk among you, and then you say, "Oh, it's a telepathy. It's--it's something; it's just not worth it"? See, see?

144 We have great gatherings, glitter, worldly tinsel, great meetings, and what do we get? More members. The Pentecostal church three years ago, put more members in it than all the rest of the churches did together. That was in "Our Sunday Visitor," the Catholic paper. "The Sunday Visitor" said they had a million converts to Catholicism in that year, and said the Pentecostals had a million five hundred thousand. Yeah. Yes, sir. All kinds of scholarship, men learned to talk in the schools, and say their speeches, intellectual, Hollywood showmen (Pardon the expression.), preaching to a bunch of so-called Pentecostal grandchildren.

146 God don't have no grandchildren. They come in. The old Pentecostal father and mother under an experience brought you in; and you just come into the church and set there, and automatically you was a Pentecostal? He don't have grandchildren. He only has sons and daughters. There's no grandchildren. You have to pay the same price and get the same Holy Ghost that they did. You got to be a son and daughter, not a grandson and granddaughter. He's not an old dotty grandfather, soft, and lets his kids get by with anything, bless their little heart. He's God, the Eternal One. That's right. Sons and daughters...

I believe it is the love for things that divides the homes more than any thing else in this Laodicean end-time. He's got to have his boy

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toys, his hot rod and new tires to match, and she's no better. She's got to have her gootchies and gotcha's and shoes and purses and other things to match. And they both are so material minded that they are never happy.

I tell you what this nation needs is a good old fashioned depression where you will appreciate a loaf of bread, and a can of beans. And we are going to get it too. Don't you think because you believe Brother Branham that you will be immune to it. Daniel was the Prophet and he was still throne to the lions. Paul was beheaded, Peter hung upside down.

IDENTIFIED WITH CHRIST 59-1220E 75
Identify yourself with some movie queen and see where you'll be. Identify yourself with some cowboy or some teenager and see where you'll be. But I challenge you tonight; identify yourself with Jesus Christ in His death and His resurrection and see where you'll be at the resurrection. "For if we suffer with Him, we shall reign with Him." God has given us the promise. And my whole desire is to be like Him. Take me, oh Lord, and mold me, and make me, shape me over again. And like the prophet that went down to the potter's house, break me up and remold me.

76.. In the Old Testament when a man want to be identified at the house of God, he took the most innocent thing he could find: a lamb. And he knowed the lamb was free from sin, 'cause it knowed no sin. And he went, and took the lamb, and put his hand upon its head, and confessed his sin; and by faith he transferred his sins on the lamb, and the innocence of the lamb back on him. And then the lamb died because it was a

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sinner. And the man lived by an act of faith of obeying what God said. But what did he do? He went right back out of the temple with the same desire he had when he come in, because when that blood cell is broken (which the life starts in one blood cell)... And when that blood cell was broken, the life of the lamb would not coincide or come back into the human life, because it was an animal life. The man went out with the same desire he had; so therefore, he committed sins continually all the time again.

77 But there come a time when God made us an Example. And He gave us the Lord Jesus. And when a sinner puts his hands upon His precious head and confesses his sins, and his sins is transformed--or--or transferred from the sinner to Jesus and the innocence of Jesus is transferred by the Holy Ghost back into that person; he's a new creature in Christ Jesus. That's where I want to be identified. The Bible said, "He knowing no sin, was made sin for us." The reason He suffered was for our sins. And it's no more than what is right, no more than our duties to look at these things and see that these desires that we have that God put in us, to create in us, to make us to want to be like Him.

HOW.CAN.I.OVERCOME 63-0825M 159 *If we suffer for Christ and His Word, we will reign with Him; for He is the Word. Remember, if we suffer for Him and His Word, we'll reign with Him in His Word.*

117-1 SMYRNAEAN CHURCH AGE -
CHURCH AGE BOOK CPT 4 *Why does He stand by? The reason is in Romans 8:17-18, "And if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer*

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with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Unless we suffer with Him we cannot reign with Him. You have to suffer to reign. The reason for this is that character simply is never made without suffering. Character is a VICTORY, not a gift. A man without character can't reign because power apart from character is Satanic. But power with character is fit to rule. And since He wants us to share even His throne on the same basis that He overcame and is set down in His Father's throne, then we have to overcome to sit with Him. And the little temporary suffering we go through now is not worthy to be compared to the tremendous glory that will be revealed in us when He comes. Oh, what treasures are laid up for those who are willing to enter into His kingdom through much tribulation.

And that is the trouble with the people today, they don't want to suffer and without suffering, you will never develop any character. Don't you know yet that you destroy your kids by giving them everything you didn't have growing up. Haven't we learned yet that you can not buy a child love or favor? Haven't we learned yet that if you spare the rod you will spoil the child? And you wives that constantly want things, have you not yet learned that things will never substitute for what is real.

We have an expression, kind of a slang in this nation and it goes like this,... GET REAL! And that is what we need. We need that which is real, and alive, and able to respond back.

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But things will never substitute, for effort. Things will never substitute for kind words. Women can have your things, but all a real man wants you can't buy. But there was an old cowboy song that said it all.

*Oh give me a home,... where the buffalo roam,
... and the deer and the antelope play, ...
where seldom is heard, a discouraging
word, and the skies are not cloudy all
day."*

There's a whole lot of meaning in that song, and I long for the day when I can look in my own home and not see things... but where I can look at my home and see the ones I love the most,

When I was a bachelor, 20 some odd years ago, and yes to the women it probably was some odd years, but to me, I could pack everything I owned in my car and I was very content. I didn't need the best furniture. My Living room had three pieces of outdoor furniture which cost perhaps 15-20 and I was happy. I didn't own a stereo, but I had an old cheap radio with a broken antennae and a tape recorder to listen to tapes, and that was all I needed. I still have that old radio in my office at work and I still listen to it for relaxation.

I didn't need to have a fancy car, I had 4 wheels and got good gas mileage and I was content. And I believe what this nation needs more than anything else to get our attention back where it belongs is a good old fashioned depression. And it's on it's road as I speak. I have preached my heart out to the people and I

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see less desire today for the things of God than I saw in you 20 years ago. The coming of the Lord is 20 years closer now that it was when you first began to search out God and yet you are so much further away from Him in your daily desires than you were 20 years ago. And why is that? Because you are keeping up with the Jones.

Look at the average marriage today. 69 percent of them are dissolved, destroyed, ended in divorce. And the major reason is materialism. THINGS with a capital T and it rhymes with D as in Divorce. Couples get married with hardly a quarter between then and yet they could make an evening out of that quarter. My wife and I used to take a walk and scrape together everything we had to come up with a quarter to buy a can a soda pop and we would share that can because we were in love, and all I needed was her and all she needed was me.

And that is how most marriages seems to start off, but then the incomes begin to increase as the burden of family comes along the way and the man gets serious with his efforts to make a good living for his wife and kids, and before you know it the income is much better and the things begin to mount up and the house becomes full and the garage becomes full and the attic and the cellar become full and then you build your barns and as they fill up you suddenly realize, I was much happier when I had nothing except my wife in my arms and my children by my side. And I know that Some of you brothers and sisters know that I am right.

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Marriages dissolve because the two people get caught up into the RAT race. Not the human race, but the RAT race, and when you don't have enough room to move the RATS begin to start eating one another, and then warfare breaks out and the divorces break forth, until perhaps 70 percent of marriages today are ending up in the Divorce courts.

I had better shut up before I get run out of here. But let me say this with all the seriousness that I know. You may remember me quoting brother Branham a couple years ago where he said in the Message *PREPARATION, They are in the spirit of the last days. And God cannot send destruction before the people are in the spirit for destruction. God never did--never did destroy anything. Man always destroys himself* And I believe that God can not send that depression until the people are in the spirit of depression. And with all that has gone on in the past two weeks where the American people have been robbed of there power in the voting booth, I believe the American people have this past couple weeks have gone from compulsion to obsession, and that as we know leads to fear and then what is next? DEPRESSION.

And there you have it, that fear of what is coming and the lack of being able to do anything about it, and the American people standing by watching this rape of justice and the American way so forcefully thrown aside for what reason? Covetousness, nothing more, nothing less, Greed, Avarice, Covetousness.

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And here we stand at the threshold of the next millennium and all we see is covetousness everywhere we look. Until the whole nation is caught up in this great example of what God meant when He said, Thou shalt not Covet. Look at how it has destroyed peoples lives. Look at all the lies, and name calling and everything imaginable being done just for Greed. Simple Greed.

II TIMOTHY 3:1 ¶ *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters-(an empty pretender) proud (showing one's self above others, overtopping, with an overweening estimate of one's means or merits, despising others or even treating them with contempt, haughty. Just look at the way they have demeaned that Secretary in Florida Katherine Harris, Secretary of State Harris, blasphemers (speaking evil, slanderous, reproachful, railing, abusive), disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers(Constantly breaking out from a truce, they can not agree on anything), false accusers(Slanderers), incontinent-(without self-control) fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors(These men have taken an oath to uphold the constitution and yet look at what they have done to this country), heady(Headstrong and reckless), highminded (to be puffed up with haughtiness or pride), lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power (The Vindicated Word) thereof: from such turn away.*

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**Are we at the End-Time? Did God say He
would destroy the Covetous? Let us pray...**