

Bible Readings: Exodus 20:1-17 & 1 Chronicles 29:6-19

Singing: 350:1-3 – 334:1, 4 – 161:1-3, 5, 7 – 24:1-3 – 428:2, 9

General Principal: God's commands us to do or leave undone.

A. Yet *not every particular duty is to be done at all times* (Matt. 12:1-9)

1. Necessity sometimes allow laws to be set aside if *life is at stake*

God's Boundary around Possessions

I. The truth about our Possessions II. The limits in acquiring our possessions

I. What is the truth about what we possess?

A. All we *personally possess* belongs to our Creator (Ps. 24:1)

1. According 1 Chron. 29:10-14 all we possess is labelled

a. possessions aren't only *material or physical*

b. possessions include *everything* God has created or recreated

B. All what we possess is also *given to be enjoyed* (1 Tim. 6:17)

1. Despite our demerit, God has given us *far more than we need to live*

C. Our extra's are given to help others also enjoy life more

1. See H. Cat. question 111: *how do we do in this positive side of 8th?*

2. Jesus raised a warning about *the omissions of 8th* in Matt. 25:31-46

II. What are the limits of how we may acquire possessions?

A. God's prohibition to *steal* implies *the right to own private possessions*

1. If 'private ownership' (*stewardship*) wasn't a given right, then God didn't need to make the boundary of the 8th around what He gave

2. Therefore *nobody* has the right to take from us what we possess

a. a forced *re-distribution of wealth in money/land* isn't Biblical

b. though **what is** Biblical is a *voluntary distribution of our extra*

● consider 1 Tim. 6:17-19; James 5:1-8

B. What are the *lawful* means to provide or acquire?

1. By working **faithfully** with the talents & opportunities given us

a. **faithfully** means *work normal and steady and regular*

b. Are you obeying Eph 4:28? 2 Thess. 3:12?

- c. Working faithfully doesn't mean *work as hard/long as possible*
2. By working in *lawful callings*
- a. Gen. 1:28: culture mandate includes all callings that honor the 10
 - b. Luke 14:26-27 also includes *economic sacrifices* (Heb. 11:24-26)
 - no sacrifice for the cause of Christ is a lost (Matt. 19:19)
- C. What are the *unlawful means* which the Lord in His loving care forbids?
- 1. He forbids *outright theft*
 - 2. God also forbids *using all means, tricks or politics* to enrich ourselves at the expense of our neighbors
 - a. in the sales world
 - b. at the workplace
 - c. in writing
 - d. in business positions
 - e. in paying taxes
 - f. in paying wages to workers
 - g. in investment world
- D. The worst robbery is still to *rob God* (Malachi 3:8-12)
- 1. What is the *good* of God's command to tithe?

Golden Truths Worthy to Treasure

Few things test a person's spirituality more accurately than the way he or she uses money.

Money is like seawater: the more you drink, the thirstier you become.

With one penny close enough to your eye, you can blot out the sun!

The real measure of our wealth is how much we are worth if we lost all.

If your religion doesn't affect the use of your money, your religion is vain.

The poorest man I know is the man who has nothing but lots of money.