

Text: 2 Peter 2:14b-16
Topic: Greed. Contentment.
Series: Book of 2 Peter

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The Sins Christians Tolerate

A Craving for Money

part 3

2:9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. 10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.

Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; 11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. 12 But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand.

They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish. 13 They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. 14 With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! 15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. 16 But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—a beast without speech—who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness. (NIV)

1. Know _____

2. Don't _____

3. Always _____

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. It is recommended that you take time this week to write out your response to each of these questions. This will help to drive home the point of today's message and will help you apply the principles to your life situation.

1. As God looks from his perspective through the centuries and across the world, do you think he considers you monetarily rich?

What does that question do to change your perspective as it relates to "greed" and craving more and more?

2. Define and describe "contentment".

How does the advertising we see everyday attempt to destroy this?

Our generation living in our Western society has been exposed to more advertising than any other group of people in the history of the world. How has your contentment fared through all that proliferation of advertising? Contemplate and describe the affect this has had on you?

3. About what things are you tempted to think, "If I only had that, I would be happy!"?

Describe an experience about a recent purchase that didn't deliver in the "it'll-make-you-happy" department?

4. Greed can be evident in the "saving" of money as much as it is the "spending" of it. Read Luke 12:13-21. How do you think greed motivated this saver? How has greed infiltrated your motives in your saving and investing of money?

Based on what you've learned from this study, how will you seek to eradicate greed from your motives?