

Practical Teaching Part 3

Handfuls On Purpose 12-12-2023 Tuesday Morning

(5) Ephesians 4 27 28 - YouTube

[Ephesians 4:27-28](#) Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Okay everybody here we are in Ephesians right this is the fourth chapter and uh we still have some ground to cover this is the uh 20th verse, but you have not so learned Christ if so be that you have heard of him and have been taught by him as the truth is in Jesus that she put off concerning the former conversation the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts and be renewed in the spirit of your mind and that you put on the new man which after God has created in righteousness and true Holiness wherefore putting away lying speak every man truth with his neighbor for we are members one of another be angry and sin not let not the sun go down upon your wrath neither give place to the devil let him that stole steal no more but rather let him labor working with his hands the thing which is good that he may have to give to him that needeth let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth but that which is good to the use of edifying that it may Minister Grace unto the hearers and grieve not the holy spirit of God whereby you are sealed into the day of redemption let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice and be ye kind one to another tender-hearted forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Well Lord lead and guide us here this morning we we thank you for being able to provide this opportunity for us to meet in such a fashion look for your blessings Lord as we open the word we pray that we would become obedient to every line and bring a blessing to all of us in our various needs in Jesus name amen.

All right so I think we covered quite a bit of area last week, but I think we still left some details on the 22nd verse so 27th verse so let's take a look here and it says neither give place to the devil. Well you know the devil doesn't need much of invitation if you haven't noticed you know he he can knock at the door we don't

have to open the door, and invite him in and have a seat you know so we're instructed in the scripture to not give him place not give him a place a foothold in other words so there are various passages that lead us to this and certainly [Ephesians 6:11](#) speaks of us putting on the whole armor of God, and standing against the wiles of the devil. So we're guarding the door you see he's not getting in that sort of thing when [James 4:7](#) says to submit yourselves therefore to God resist the devil he will flee from you so you know the the idea of passivity that somehow we're just supposed to lay back and let God do all the work no we have to be vigilant sober we have to be defending our ground, and we must not let Satan take any ground back from us so you can see here that there is a battle being waged, and believers have to be alert and serve the Lord with alacrity so we resist the devil so we we can't prevent him it's part of the experience here on earth the trials, and tribulations God permits this will strengthen us if we win the battle if we stand in the might of the Lord of course it's all because of God's power that we stand we don't stand in our own strength we we're weaklings, but we have the great captain of the Lord's hosts on our side as Joshua said if you're for us then victory is ours tomorrow there's another verse in [Romans 13:14](#) I like and this is but put you on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you can see that again in [Ephesians 4:24](#) where it says put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness, and true holiness and here again you put on the Lord Jesus Christ we put on the armor we put on the robe of righteousness you know put on Christ, and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof again this is giving place giving a place a foothold we must not make provision for the flesh well the flesh is always crying out for something so it's like a spoiled brat demanding making demands of us all the time so the christian life is a life of discipline after all and that's what discipleship means discipline, and it means disciplining the heart the mind and training ourselves to be vigilant and we're at war so we must walk circumspectly not as fools, but as wise perhaps we'll go right into the fifth chapter of Ephesians here, and we'll see some of those exhortations as well oh yes well the devil he doesn't give up easily that's for certain you may defeat him now but he'll be back tomorrow we think of Jesus 40 days of temptation in the wilderness Satan at the end throws the last three great temptations, but cannot defeat Christ, and so the scripture says that Satan left him for a season so it's interesting he left him for a season he didn't leave him all altogether he just he was defeated, and he went away for a while, but he'll come back, and it'll be the same case for us let's recall, and so the Bible teaches about the devil, and his various personas, and some of the metaphors that are given to us so that we can be aware, and in [John 10:10](#) we find him as a thief don't we and what do we do about thieves well I wonder how many of you here probably you probably have by now a ring camera right you have that at your front door maybe your back door you've got security lights you want to make sure that if there's any prowlers or thieves that you're all aware of it, and light is lighting you know that they love to they love to work in the dark don't they thieves we find them with the Masquerade on you know they have a mask, and they have a hood on usually you know so that they can't be seen, and that's how the devil works he Work furtively,

and surreptitiously so we have to be aware of this he's a thief and he's coming to steal he wants to steal your peace he wants to steal your faith he wants to steal your power so we have to all be vigilant and sober and disciplined and ready to fight in the onslaught of the evil of the day also this scripture in [John 8:44](#) tells us he's a murderer right he of your father the devil and the lusts of your father you will do he was a murderer from the beginning so that's also rather descriptive of who he is, and what he is about at the end why if he had his way he would have killed us long ago so we have protective angel that keep us from falling we don't know the half of this by the way I suppose it won't be until eternity that we see how many times we've been protected, but the devil would love to eliminate us so we keep all of that in mind as well, and you know we want to we can't give him any place if you give him place he'll destroy your life Peter also gives us a metaphor descriptive of Satan and how he works, and that is in [1 Peter 5:8](#) as a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may devour so again how would you feel if you knew there was a lion in the neighborhood I think you'd be walking very carefully right you'd be watching all the time, and on the lookout, and expecting at any moment you know he could be in the bushes somewhere, and then just kind of lunge forward, and attack and this is the way that a cat works so we have those three descriptive verses right there that help us to not give place to the devil so our passage really is about sanctification isn't it, and we find in the Bible how many places where the the scripture tells us that we're to separate from the world, and in a sense we see in [1 Peter 2:9](#) be peculiar people the ways of the Christian are peculiar to the world now we we find this as a badge of honor by the way if they if someone should find you peculiar this is a good thing this scripture wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate said the Lord touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you and I shall be a father unto you and you shall be my sons and daughters saith the Lord Almighty. So Paul has this in mind this is in [2 Corinthians 6:17-18](#). So the idea of separation this is not some unusual teaching by the way today there's so much emphasis today on grace and I'm certainly a grace preacher I believe in grace, but you know grace does not give us a license to sin the Bible still maintains that believers are called out separated there to be a sanctified people a peculiar people this of course it runs contrary with the the nature of the flesh the flesh wants to have liberty do whatever it wants to do, and so on, but we've become followers of Christ, and again this makes us a peculiar people there it is in [1 Peter 2:9](#) But you're a chosen generation a royal priesthood and holy nation a peculiar people that you should put show forth the praises of God [Titus 2:14](#) tells us who gave himself Christ gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. Then again in [Deuteronomy 14:2](#) we look in the Old Testament concept For thou art an holy people under the Lord thy God, and the the Lord has chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself above all the nations that are upon the earth so this admonition we find here in [Ephesians 4:27](#) is to not give place to the devil we're not going to give him any ground because you do that of course what's the old expression you give him an inch he'll take a mile so we have to we have to stand fast hold our ground and not let the devil take us back or pull us back into

his vortex of evil well the next admonition that we have in [Ephesians 4:28](#) Let him that stole steal no more now I don't I'm overlooking here a group I doubt that we have any thieves in the group here, but you know this is an admonition that's given as well because there are some nuances to the concept of stealing there's more to it than just what normally we would think of you know where you go into the drugstore, and steal something there's much more to it than that I think so we we want to kind of explore this, and perhaps there's some corrections for some of us as well. I again I don't think looking at my group today I doubt that there's anybody here that runs into the drugstore, and steals a candy bar, but there's more to it let's take a look at some of the various categories so the old notion that a thief has is that what's yours is mine, and he intends to take it one way or the other you know we're living in strange times politically, and we've got half the country that believes in the old Robin Hood mentality taking from the rich, and giving to the poor well certainly the Bible tells us, and instructs us to give to the poor, but willingly so it shouldn't just be taken out of somebody's income, and given to somebody else that's what Communism is or at least that's the goal of Communism it never really has achieved its goal because once people get in power then they enrich themselves they use the power of government to enrich themselves all under the guise of egalitarianism never really happens though, but it's a it's a false form, and it's thievery, and it's thievery at the highest levels for that matter well again let's take a little closer look here what the Bible means when it says thou shalt not steal so we have the active nature of stealing, and that's found in [Leviticus 6:1-4](#) So the Lord spake to Moses saying if a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the Lord and lie unto his neighbor in that which was delivered him to keep or in fellowship or in a thing taken away by violence or deceived his neighbor or have found that which was lost and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely in any of all these that a man doeth sending again therein then it shall be because hath sinned, and is guilty that he shall restore that which he took violently away or the thing which he ha deceitfully gotten or that which was delivered him to keep or the lost thing which he found you can see there's there's nuances now of thievery it's not just the active thievery that's involved there are other ways of stealing here through deceit, and so on as we see or all that about which he hath sworn falsely he shall even restore it in the principle, and shall add the fifth part more thereto and give it unto him to whom it pertaineth in the day of his trespass offering so you know what we have in a single line in the decalogue or the Ten Commandments thou shalt not steal what we have here in Leviticus is an amplification of that so we're taking it now to the ninth degree so it's understood that it goes well beyond just the active participation dealing so let's clear some of those issues up for instance here though the word itself is not employed we're really talking about embezzlement aren't we.

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

EMBEZZLEMENT

So what's embezzlement? It's a misuse or misappropriation of something that has been entrusted to us ([Leviticus 6:2](#)). Embezzlement is a violence of trust, for what has been placed in the person's keeping has been appropriated for selfish purposes. Embezzlement is frequently an offense of a bank employee or of a comptroller of a corporation. Of course some people use that word they say controller, but that's not how it's pronounced it's controller actually it's a strange problem in the English language at any rate I've got two pictures here of two people that certainly illustrate what embezzlement is all about one was Jimmy Baker you know with the PTO club, and how he milked people out of hundreds of millions of dollars to enrich himself, and his wife, and people didn't really understand what they were giving to him, and so it was by it was pretense, and in a sense embezzlement, and he was ultimately imprisoned in federal prison for mail fraud because he was taking it through the mail basically people's offerings he never doesn't learn his lessons by the way he's still on television, and recently even claimed to have the cure to Covid-19, and by spraying silver in your mouth or some nonsense, and he got in trouble again, and was threatened there I don't think he went to prison or at least didn't go to prison yet again, but that's what embezzlement is about the other picture I have is uh maybe you remember Bernie Madoff you know I often use the expression an aptonym an aptonym is someone that has a name that be kind of fits their their occupation it's an unusual thing for instance we have we know of a dentist whose name was Dr. Pain I don't know if I'd want to go to him Dr. Pain um so that's an aptonym and when you think of Bernie Madoff he made off with people's money didn't he was if you remember the story, so I don't know was it 15 years ago or so Bernie Madoff story, and he swindled people out of billions of dollars, and he lived this luxurious lifestyle, and he had this Ponzi scheme, and we had very famous people that lost millions of dollars by investing with him, and meanwhile he was just enriching himself, and he was ultimately sentenced for 150 years in jail for for this act so you can speak of this as you know it's dishonest. Embezzlement you're taking money under false pretense it's a scam artist whatever you want to use for expression, and he was ultimately sentenced for it. In the Bible you have this unique illustration in [Matthew 19:1-3](#) of Zacchaeus, and Zacchaeus well we know the story don't we hopefully he was a wee little man you know we sang it in Sunday school don't we so Jesus finds him here he's a Publican now these Publicans were officers for the Roman Empire, and their job was to collect income taxes, and in a sense they were they were viewed in, fact the name or word Publican had become a derogatory name you would use it as an insult you call somebody a Publican, and that's how hated they were, and they were hated for good reason the people saw these their own fellow people Jews taking jobs from the Romans, and basically operated as spies, and they would see how much money you were making or how good your crop was or how many fish you took in the boat, and then they would tax you for it, and so they were they were despised people and Zacchaeus was uh one of them the other reason that

they were despised is that they were permitted by Rome to take whatever amount they wanted as long as Rome got their cut Rome didn't care if they applied extortion, and whatever other threatenings to get the money that they wanted so Zacchaeus we know the story he climbs the tree Jesus comes by and sees him there, and he sought to see Jesus who he was, and could not for the press because he was little of stature you know the story and then Zacchaeus stood he's invited by Jesus or Jesus invites himself so to speak I'm coming to your house to eat tonight and he runs ahead of Jesus you know, and they had this great feast, and we have the conversion of Zacchaeus occurring Zacchaeus stood, and said to the Lord behold Lord the half of my goods I give to the poor, and if I've taken anything from any man by false accusation so there we have the notion of thievery it's at a different level than we're used to you know you're not going in a bank with a mask, and a gun, and robbing the teller you're taking it in this case under a legal pretentious law of the Romans he was permitted to do what he was doing, but it wasn't right, and so he took it by false accusation I restore him fourfold you remember that passage I showed you the extended passage in [Leviticus 6](#) where you have the the notion of well you had to restore so if you were found out, and your sin found you out then you were to restore, and you had to restore in this case fourfold he pays him back fourfold so it's really it's quite amazing that we have this illustration and so Zacchaeus is saved, and pays back fourfold, and Jesus then rewards him he says this day salvation has come to this house for as much as he also is a son of Abraham [Luke 19:7](#) For the son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. So Zacchaeus is saved of course this to the chagrin of the Pharisees and others that saw Jesus sitting with publicans, and these sinful people that used extortion and embezzlement to take money from their fellow their fellows so that was a great story of God's redemptive power so well let's go on here we'll see other aspects there also.

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

ROBBERY

Robbery is the act of taking what belongs to another. So we have to see that also in [Leviticus 6:2](#) Robbery I believe is a broad definition covering several kinds of stealing so robbery generally takes things directly often by the use of superior force (frequently involving a weapon). Stealing suggests stealth. A pickpocket for example uses stealth as does a burglar you know today now you've got credit cards in your pocket, and they've got the chip on it, and now there are there are these burglars that are actually walking close to you, and they have a they have a chip reader in their hand, and they kind of hold it close to your purse or your wallet you can't see this they might even just bump into you, but they're meanwhile they're searching for your chip, and then they they copy your chip,

and then they can use your chip we're living in some strange times aren't we so stealing suggest stealth a pickpocket for example uses stealth as does a burglar fraud may also be included here. So fraud involves getting what belongs to another by deception here the victim often gives what is stolen to the thief thinking that doing so will be profitable the only one who profits however is the thief that's what some of these characters on television are doing that with their multi-million dollar lavish opulent lifestyles, and they're taking money from widows it's unconscionable, but they do it, and they do it under the guise of well you know you'll be prosperous if you give to the Ministry you know, but really they are just enriching themselves, and they grant themselves so beware, all of this so again the Bible warns us of such manipulation so thus in [Luke 3:13-14](#) John the Baptist told the tax gatherers, and the soldiers of his day and he said unto them exact no more than that which has appointed you and the soldiers likewise demanded of him saying, and what shall we do and he said unto them do violence to no man neither accuse any falsely, and be content with your wages so there are two things that Jesus or that is bringing out at this juncture, and that was that the Publican could not take more than was lawful for him to take so yes he could make a living being a tax gatherer, but he was not permitted to gouge people four times what they really owed, and so that's what he's setting straight here, and the other factor here are the soldiers that were more than willing to take bribes, and we have it today too it was years back, but I remember a fellow being in trouble for his third DUI which is a mandatory 90 days in jail well he could ill afford going to jail, and he would lose his job, and all the rest so he hires an attorney, and he pays him I don't know what he paid \$5,000 I guess to get him off this problem, but really he can't get off of it, and I thought I happened to go with him to court he was very concerned, and here he goes to the attorney's office before he goes to the court hands the attorney an envelope with several hundred in it, and the next thing I know they go to court, and the arresting officer did not show up for the hearing, and when that happens then the charges has to be thrown out well I found out later that the envelope was there to pay the officer not to show up, and so all this negotiation happened in the hall before they go before the court the officer disappears he's made himself a tidy sum \$400 or whatever so you can see be content with your wages you know you're an officer you made enough money, and so on, but you see people are willing to be bribed, and Injustice occurs.

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

KIDNAPPING

[Deuteronomy 24:7](#) Okay another form of stealing is kidnapping look what those evil Hamas terrorists have done in kidnapping people, and taking them as hostage, and they'll either kill them or they'll make some kind of deal with them I

mean it's deplorable what goes on, but their religion justifies these things, and this is what Islam is about everything's justifiable under the laws of Jihad, and as long as Jihad is declared against Israel, and against America for that matter then they can do whatever injustice, and they can get away with it because they're doing it for the cause of God that's how they look at it, but kidnapping is always been deplorable, and of course it was mentioned here in [Deuteronomy 24:7](#) We have in the ancient near kidnapping was considered a form of theft probably because the individual would be kept as a slave rather than because he or she would be ransomed.

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

PASSIVE

Then we have what we consider passive stealing so a man's negligence which results in a loss to his neighbor so [Exodus 22:1-15](#) describes several acts of negligence you know it's really interesting we have people saying well we don't live by the Old Testament, but almost all of our laws are taken from Old Testament concepts so these various torts, and misdemeanors as well as capital crimes are all recorded here in the book of Exodus, and the idea even of compensatory damages that would have to be paid all of that is given to us in the book of [Exodus 22:1-15](#) and [Leviticus 6:3](#), and so on so here it describes several acts of negligence of which deprive a neighbor of his property which less requires restitution for example if a man's pasture land has been grazed bare, and he therefore lets his animal loose so that it grazes on his neighbor's pasture consuming it the negligent man is guilty of passive stealing so you can read all of this if you want the details so if a man shall cause a field or vineyard to be eaten, and shall put in his beast, and shall feed in another man's field of the best of his own field, and at the best of his own vineyard shall make a restitution so little things even, and we have problems perhaps you have neighbor problems they probably had to put a fence up or something, and these are things that could actually be taken to court at some cases, and small claim courts so all of this is again this is in a sense part of stealing as well it's a passive sense you didn't intend for it to happen, but it happened this way here we have again a man's failure to return something lost to its owner is stealing so you know there's a number of my books that I been missing for about the last 30 years so I usually put my name in the book, but sometimes people will actually bring a book back after five years you know they'll kind of sheepishly bring it into my office put it on my desk, and I never know who had it, and how long they've had it, but at any rate this is sometimes we don't think of it that way people take books from the library, and they forget to bring it back, and that is a form of stealing so [Leviticus 6:2](#) If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the Lord have found that which was lost and lieth concerning it ,and sweareth falsely the old adage finders

keepers losers weepers is shown to be an excuse for theft to find what belongs to another, and not to return it is to steal it by one's negligence or refusal to return it clear instructions regarding the returning of lost items is also given in the book of [Deuteronomy 22:1-4](#) so see God covers almost if you think about it all these modern distresses that we have today were actually dealt with in ancient times and there's the passage there thou shalt not see thy brother's ox or his sheep go astray and hide thyself from them thou shalt in any case bring them again unto thy brother and If thy brother be not nigh unto thee or if thou know him not then thou shalt bring it unto thine own house and it shall be with thee until thy brother seek after it I think you know probably all of us here at one time or another have uh maybe looked in our uh envelope after we went to the bank you know and found out that they gave us \$50 more than they should and you might say well that's their problem right so I'm going to gain from this or if somebody forgot to charge you for an item this happens quite often you know they forget to check something out so we have an obligation to be honest about these things when we were buying our church building years back is very interesting stories here, but we um actually the bank we had put money into the bank to purchase the property, and the bank gave us too much money in interest to the tune of like \$330,000 and well we didn't at that particular time didn't realize it, and so we went ahead purchased the building, and then realized later that no it there was a mistake here that was made, and the bank I guess called us at some point said it was a terrible mistake that had been made, and so we paid it all back to them well that's the obligation you could have argued well there's nothing they can do about it you know that was their mistake, and they you know, but we have to do the right thing else wise that's considered stealing as you can see here from this failure to give what belongs to another is stealing so we have all these various categories of theft you know I want to probably add another one that people don't usually think about too often but it's gambling.

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

GAMBLING

Gambling is a form of stealing from somebody else I had learned my lesson early on I've never had any temptation to gamble to me I can't think of anything more foolish than as far as throwing your money away I tell gamblers that have this addiction that you know the house never loses, and that's true, but I had learned my lesson very early on when in grade school I had a Duke Snyder card you know which was my favorite baseball player, and you had to flip for Duke Snyder so this fellow had a Duke Snyder card, and I think I don't know what I had Willie Mays or something like that, and in those days you would flip if you flipped the card then you would lose it or you'd gain it one of the two depends on was heads or tails so if you flip the baseball card, and land it up it

was yours then, and you could take it from the guy you know so we flipped the cards, and so on, and I lost the bet, and Snyder as a result, and I lost Willie Mays along with it so um you learn you learn your lessons hopefully about gambling it's a sin, and though it's not I don't think it's expressly told to us in the Bible, but we have principles that we can go by that I think pretty clearly denounce the concept it's a form of stealing and [Isaiah 65:11-14](#) it says But ye are they that forsake the Lord that forget my holy mountain that prepare a table for that troop and that furnish the drink offering unto that number this is a curious passage and I think we can we can expatiate on this a bit if you find it interesting although you know I don't I know that I have any gamblers here, but it's becoming prevalent with people with the lottery now with so many people gambling on sports they make it so easy it's online gambling that's happening now we have casinos Governor Randell said if we build a casino down on the North side that we'll not be paying any more property taxes I mean this is what politicians are they lie, and I'm still paying property tax, but they get a lot of revenue from this well again it's a form of stealing so therefore will I number you to the sword and you shall bow down to the slaughter because when I called you did not answer when I spake you did not hear, but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not therefore thus say the Lord God behold my servant shall eat but ye shall be hungry behold my servant shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty behold my servant shall rejoice but ye shall be ashamed behold my servant shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit now let's try to explain the context here, and it's a bit confusing maybe, but let's see if we can just figure this thing out, but ye are they that forsake the Lord that forget my holy mountain that prepare a table for that troop I have that underlined here in green so that this is where we have to go back perhaps to the original language, and see what the context is about it's kind of confusing context, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number so we have these two, and we want to go back to the original language and that troop is Gad you know so we learned this with the two sons of Israel so Gad was the name of the pan-Semitic god of fortune, usually depicted as a male but sometimes as a female. So the table for Gad spoke of the god of fortune of good luck in other words that's what gambling is all about, and gamblers are very superstitious people, and they you know they wear amulets they uh they have to wear a certain shirt when they go to the poker table, and all the rest you know they're very superstitious baseball players very superstitious if they have a hitting streak going on they have to wear the same socks and it's foolishness of course but nonetheless they believe there's a power in good luck, and they don't want to tempt the fates that sort of thing well it's paganism in a sense, and the table for the god of fortune so that's really how this reads in its literal sense they prepare a table for the god of fortune now we have gambling tables of all sorts down in a casino I've never been in one but I've seen pictures of a casino so we know what they're about, and I'm wondering now is this what Isaiah is speaking about was it a form of paganism and I think it's not too far stretch here, and they furnish a drink offering unto that number now we have Manat a Syrian deity remember man Manat Paran which was the words that uh the handwriting on the wall that

came down during Belshazzar's orgastic feast so Manat Syrian deity, but she was the goddess of bad fortune so you know you had the Yin and the Yang here you had the good fortune, and the bad fortune good luck, and bad luck is what this is about, and it seems to me that Isaiah here now is excoriating his people that were involved in these tables, and involved in making drink offerings to the goddess of bad fortune so as to plate bad luck, and to keep bad luck away from you know, well my Italian grandmother used to have garlic that you would tie around the front of the door good luck would keep the bad luck away from us, and that sort of thing, and these superstitions that people have you know the black cat is bad luck you don't walk under a ladder, and uh all of these were Pagan concepts so I think that Isaiah here is at least pointing to it if not if not directly to gambling certainly to these false gods so sometimes it pays for us to actually go back, and look at the etymology of the various words there's nothing wrong with the translation because that's what Gad means it means that troop, and that's certainly what that number Manat means, but when you look at the etymology where did the words come from, and what were they meant to be originally then you begin to see maybe a deeper meaning deeper concept to it. All right so again the god of fortune, and the god of destiny bad fortune so I believe that gambling is a form of stealing it's certainly a form of fatalism the belief of good luck, and bad luck Christians don't have to live by good luck, and bad luck, but today we have get rich quick schemes, and they're always a hoax they bring poverty not wealth I used to have a fellow, and he would call me quite frequently, and say oh he said I'm going to be rich, and I knew what was he get these things in the mail they do just won a million dollars, and it was the clearing house publishing company, and I would tell him now did you read the fine print you I said you're going to have to buy magazines well yes he said I you know he understood that, but it said here that he won a million I said well you don't win it you're entered into it that's all, and the chances of you winning are 100 million, but they don't give you that information unless it's in very small print but I think the whole concept that my problems are going to be over my trouble is going to be ended all it takes is you know one investment, and so I can take, and go down stand in the lottery line with my \$1 bill in my hand, and it could change my entire destiny and the Bible decries the notion of getting rich quick it's a dangerous prospect well I have a sermon on lottery losers I call it and of course there's a book about this about the people that have put money into the lottery, and they won the big one but within 5 years or 10 years we find out they have no money left they're living in some cabin somewhere in the woods, and they've lost all their friends, and they've divorced their husband or their wife, and so on, and they're not happier for it that's for sure [Proverbs 28:22](#) He that hastens to be rich hath an evil eye and considers not that poverty shall come upon you so God warns about this notion the divinely established means of getting ahead is by work, and you'll see this repeatedly in the scripture so it's not by gambling it will be by hard labor hard work. and of course the sin of greed which is really the motivation in gambling greed covetousness it motivates individuals to gamble [Proverbs 22:16](#) He that oppressteth the poor to increase his riches, And he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

THE SIN OF GAMBLING

The divinely established means of “getting ahead” is by work

[Genesis 2:15](#) And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

[Genesis 3:19](#) In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

[Exodus 20:9](#) Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

[2 Thessalonians 3:10-11](#) For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

[Ephesians 4:28](#) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

[Proverbs 6:6](#) Go to the ant, thou sluggard; Consider her ways, and be wise:

[Proverbs 12:11](#) He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: But he that followeth vain *persons* is void of understanding.

[Proverbs 20:4](#) The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *Therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing.

THE SIN OF GAMBLING

The greed (covetousness) that motivates individuals to gamble is sin.

[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’

[Proverbs 11:28](#) He that trusteth in his riches shall fall:

But the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

[Proverbs 15:16](#) Better *is* little with the fear of the LORD Than great treasure and trouble therewith.

[Proverbs 23:4-5](#) Labour not to be rich: Cease from thine own wisdom.

5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; They fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

[Galatians 5:21](#) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: 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.

[Philippians 4:11-13](#) Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

[Colossians 3:5](#) Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

[1 Timothy 6:6-11](#) But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

[1 Timothy 6:17-19](#) Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

And that motivation greed is a sin, and there's a number of verses we could cite on this probably the most famous is [1 Timothy 6:10](#) where it speaks about covetousness and the evil you know we often use the wrong expression there that the love of money is evil but the love of money is the root of all evil which some coveted after so there's covetousness, and the hope of gaining, and it's a dangerous proposition.

THE SIN OF GAMBLING

It indicates a lack of trust in God's ability to provide. How many scriptures tell us of God's abundant supply for the believer super abundant for that matter meeting all of our needs according to his riches and glory.

[Matthew 6:25-34](#) Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?
27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?
28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:
29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith?
31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?
32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.
[Luke 12:15](#) And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.
[Hebrews 13:5](#) *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*
[1 Timothy 6:6-9](#) But godliness with contentment is great gain.
7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.
8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.
9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

THE SIN OF GAMBLING

True riches are Spiritual and eternal.

[Philippians 4:19](#) But my God shall supply all your need according to his **riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

[James 2:5](#) Harken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world **rich in faith**, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

[1 Timothy 6:18](#) That they do good, that they be **rich in good works**, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

[Ephesians 2:4](#) But God, who is **rich in mercy**, for his great love wherewith he loved us.

So our riches we see in Philippians, and of course the book of Ephesians

repeats the concept of rich the richness of God's mercy so we find over and over again that these are things uh that are quite spiritual and our our great rewards are waiting in the world to come, and

We should look to God as our source of supply:

[Philippians 4:19](#) But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

[Ephesians 3:20](#) Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

[Philippians 4:19](#) very famous verse there God supplying all of our needs according to his riches and glory and gambling expressly denies God's sovereignty, and care so the only place really in the scripture outside of what I just showed you in [Isaiah 65:11](#) might be as we well know at the cross where they gambled over the cloak of Jesus in [John 19:23](#) so it's seen in a very negative light right there as well so that's just a little rehearsal on the sin of gambling maybe it's helpful maybe not maybe you know somebody that has this addiction, and they might be looking for an answer hopefully you have it now.

[Ephesians 4:28](#) let him that stole steal no more but rather let him labor working with his hands the thing which is good that he may have to give to him that needeth so we've got labor in the Bible telling us that this is good for us let him that stole steal no more, but rather let him labor working with his hands the thing which is good that he may have to give to him that needeth.

ATTRIBUTES OF FAITHFUL MEN

INDUSTRY

[2 Thessalonians 3:10-13](#) For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

So from the beginning of the sin of Adam labor was instituted by God in [Exodus 34:21](#) Six days shalt thou labor he says to Adam that it'll be by the sweat of your brow you'll have to toil now this of course is you could say that it's retributive, but really it's designed here for God for man's good there is an old adage it's not biblical but it's certainly wise, and that is that the idol mind is the devil's play yard so it's important for people to be active it's important for people to work, and so it's installed here as a safeguard against sin so let us labor we find here but rather let him labor working with his hands the thing which is good in [Ephesians 4:28](#), and in [2 Thessalonians 3:8](#) Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labor, and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you. So laboring is a good thing you know we have now since the beginning of our church church ministry 50 years ago we've always done everything ourselves we hardly ever pay anybody to do anything well we never had a whole lot of money anyway, but by the same token it has been a good practice for people to work, and to do that which is God's work is a great honor as far as I'm concerned of course then to help others you know that middle picture I remember we had two people in the church, and they were an older couple, and they were retired, and they had worked all their lives both of them were steel workers the husband, and the wife they worked on the US steel building downtown, but now they were infirmed, and they were having a very difficult time the wife had stroked, and couldn't get out of her house to get to the doctor because they had numerous steps 20 some steps to get up, and down, and she couldn't couldn't get out from the front door, and the back door he would take her up through the backyard, and up a hill up about 40 ft up a hill in a kind of steep incline, and would wheel her up, and here he was infirmed himself, and I saw the situation, and said you know we want to help, and see what we can do to help you here, and so we dug out a driveway, and we poured about 20 yards of cement which is a lot of cement, and finished it, and gave them a a driveway all the way up to the back entry where he could pull his car, and get her in, and out to her appointments so we learned the lesson, and have learned now all these many years to work, and to work hard, and it is a good thing, and it's something of course that God admonishes us to maintain now all of us are getting much older, and it's getting a lot more difficult for us to do it, but hoping that the next generation that's coming up will learn lessons from us about the importance that industry is [2 Thessalonians 3:10-13](#) For even when we were with you this commanded you that if and he would not work, neither should he eat. 11. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, walking not at all but, are busybodies. 12. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. 13. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. So important for us to labor that we might give to those which are in need, and that's what the the scripture goes on to tell us here is we labor certainly, but we labor also so that we might have access, and be able to take what access we have, and to help people that are in true need. Well of course I think all of us know that there's two kinds of people in the world there's givers, and there's takers so [Acts 20:35](#) tells us I have shewed you all things, how that so laboring you ought to support

the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Now I find that really fascinating Acts chapter 20, and the Apostle Paul's giving final instructions of the church at Ephesus, and how interesting it is here that he cites something that Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive, and as you can look through the gospels, and you'll not find Jesus ever saying that one time so what did Paul have in mind here, and what does he mean that the Lord said this, and the Lord Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive well of course [John 21:25](#) even tells us in the gospel that there are many things that Jesus did, and said that aren't contained in the gospel so this might be just an oral tradition, but certainly the life of Jesus the whole life of Jesus illustrates this. Jesus was not a taker he came to give, and to give his life as a an ultimate sacrifice for the sins of people so what a difference in the ways of Jesus are so much different than the ways of man you know man is all about self and aggrandizing making for ourselves the bible really teaches us a better way, and to give, and that's what the word charity is about the word Agape in the original language is self-sacrificing in [Matthew 25:35-40](#) Jesus said I was in hunger, and he gave me meat remember they they asked him Lord when did we see you hungry when do he said I was hungry you gave me meat I was thirsty well you gave me drink I was a stranger and you took me in I was naked, and and you clothed me I was sick, and you visited me I was in prison, and you came unto me, and so he admonishes us to do this, and to live this way as believers, and to not talk about love, but to live it, and to put ourselves in the situation it costs us something, and to do for others Christ is the ultimate example, and the consummate giver let us be as the Lord so let him labor he says working with his hands that thing which is good that we may be able to give. In [Luke 21:1-4](#) we have the illustration of the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury he saw a poor widow casting in her two mites, but he said of a truth I say unto you that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all for all these have of their abundance cast into their offerings of God, but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had so the Bible teaches what we call altruism so it's in direct contrast with the spirit of our age egotism people living for themselves uh the younger of them said to his father give me give me you know this is what they say give me the portion of goods that fifth to me and he divided unto him his living egotism says I want, and I deserve, and you ought to do this for me altruism is just the opposite of this so the widow shows by her her altruism that she gives all that she has so very important for us to learn these lessons what true charity is you know it's interesting when you see this little chart poor the poor the most charitable people it's so true you know they every year or so they take a tally of what the politicians give you know 1% of their income, and so they're multi-millionaires, but this is you know the more people have the more they hold on to what they have, and just completely opposite to what the Bible teaches [Luke 6:38](#) Give he says it shall be given to you good measure pressed down shaken together running over shall men give unto your bosom for with the same measure that you meet with all it shall be measured to you again there's the story of the man that came into the church, and stood up to give testimony one day, and he said you know 10 years ago I

came into this church and all I had was a \$5 bill that was all I had left I was totally broke he said, and when the offering plate came around I decided like the widow to put in all that I had and I put my \$5 bill in that offering plate says now 10 years later I've so prospered I own several businesses I have millions of dollars in my bank account, and God has really rewarded me, and a little old lady sitting by him stood up, and said I dare you to do it again so of course you know when you have everything it's a little harder to give it all isn't it, but when you have nothing in a sense so well let us learn the lesson from all of this now there's more to say here in [Ephesians 4](#), and we're going to get to this next week, but we've come to the end of our lesson.

So Lord what we have before us in [Ephesians 4](#) and for that matter the fifth chapter is one of those unique places in the Bible very instructional hortatory, and it's for believers to learn the lesson of what true biblical Christianity is so hopefully Lord we've gotten some insights, and we take these very practical lessons Lord, and we want to live them so I pray Lord will not be just hearers, but now doers of that which we've heard this morning bring a blessing to us Lord we thank you for giving us the greatest gift of all the Lord Jesus Christ, and this is a gift Lord that in particular during this time of the year we would think people would be far more interested in, and I pray Lord that would be the case that we would see people brought to the light during the next few weeks that people's hearts will open to the truth of the gospel, and not make just some superficial move towards God but a life changing move we pray Father for each of us to be a witness to the best of our ability during these dark days that we live in in Jesus name we pray amen.