

GIVE – GAIN – GREED

Three popular words used often today in all levels of society and government. Let's look in Webster's Dictionary for their real meanings, one at a time –

GIVE – *To make a gift of – to hand or pass over – to produce or supply – to sacrifice.*

The best example of GIVING is found in the most popular verse in the Bible – *“For God so Loved the world, that He GAVE His only begotten Son – that whosoever Believes in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life”* (John 3:16).

God loves us so very much that He GAVE His most precious possession (His Son as a sacrifice) to redeem us from our sin, and make us worthy to enter His Heaven. It is a True Gift – we cannot earn it nor pay for it – it is HIS GIFT to us!

The Apostle Paul in his writings to the Ephesian Church states – *“For by Grace you have been Saved through Faith – and not of yourselves – it is the GIFT of God – not of works, lest any man should boast”* (Ephesians 2:8,9). Here we have God freely GIVING us Salvation with nothing left for us to do – EXCEPT – to receive His Love and Surrender our hearts and lives to Him

GAIN -- *To increase – to earn – to profit – to make progress.*

A real example of GAIN is told by the Apostle Paul of the Lord Jesus Christ – *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus – who, being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God – but made Himself of no reputation, and took on Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men – and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name – that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth – and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father”* (Philippians 2:5-11).

This GAIN not only highly exalted Jesus – but also made a way for you and I to have our sins forgiven, and be assured an entrance to Heaven.

Paul, in his letter to Timothy says – *“Godliness with contentment is GREAT GAIN”* (1 Timothy 6:6) – what a powerful thought! There is so very little “contentment” today in every phase of life – people struggling to pay for what they have already accumulated – and – wanting more than they can afford. This leads to the next item --

GREED -- *Excessive desire for things – wanting or taking more than is necessary.*

The Apostle Peter strongly describes it in this manner -- *“Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin, beguiling unstable souls. A heart they have exercised with covetous practices . . . which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of wicked men who love the wages of unrighteousness”* (2 Peter 2:14,15).

The word “adultery” used here refers not only to illicit sex, but also to the manipulation of anything away from it’s proper use – seeing only what they want for personal gain (at any cost) – and practicing their own lust for more and more. Their “wages” (payday) will come to them in due time – and then it will be too late.

Even religious leaders and their children are not exempt from this sin of GREED – The Prophet Samuel in the Old Testament had two wicked sons, *“and his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after personal gain and took bribes, and perverted judgment”* (1 Samuel 8:3)

In his wisdom King Solomon wrote – *“The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord – but the words of the pure are pleasant words. He that is greedy of gain troubles his own house”* (Proverbs 15:26,27). When we are greedy of improper gain we include our family in the final results.

Our words, thoughts and actions all must be brought together under the spot-light of the Scriptures in order to have peace of mind and heart. Two portions of Paul’s writings bring this out – (1) *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 2:5) and (2) *“Be not conformed to this world – but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that Good, and Acceptable, and Perfect Will of God”* (Romans 12:2).

GIVE – GAIN -- GREED – all depend on how much of our thoughts and lives are under the control of God – that have been surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ -- and covered by His Blood Sacrifice on the Cross – THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!

He said – *“I am the (only) Way, the (only) Truth, and the (only) Life”* (John-14:6).

REMEMBER –

“GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN” (1 Timothy 6:6).

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