

No Stealing

“Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another.” (Leviticus 19:11)

God’s Word clearly direct us not to live our lives in laziness and complacency depending on others, but it teaches us to work so that we can provide for ourselves and to help those who are in need, **“He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.” (Ephesians 4:28)** This is the type of life that pleases the Lord, that we work with our own hands doing our business and win the respect of the outsiders by not being dependant on any one as God’s word teaches us, **“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.” (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)** These verses teach us biblical principles that we should not abuse or take advantage of anyone. Everyone must know His duties and his responsibilities, and what is due for him and what it is due for others.

Stealing is to take something not belong to you with out the permission of others. God the Creator of the universe had made everything clear that regulate the different relationship between the people. He instructed the slaves not to steal from their masters: **“Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.” (Titus 2:9-10)** As well as the Word of God teaches the rich not to abuse the workers: **“Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.” (James 5:1-6)**

Stealing is the service of devil. The Lord Jesus Christ said about that the following: **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)** The devil is the thief that enters people’s life to kill and steal and destroy their lives, but Jesus came from heaven so that we may have life and have it to the full. Jesus came to us to save us and deliver us from the work of Devil. **“He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.” (1 John 3:8)** Jesus offered Himself on the cross as atonement for our sins. He was buried and rose from the death on the third day to give us eternal life, and not only for us but for everyone who believes in Him and follows His steps in life.

So to follow Christ is to be in the abundant life that He had promised. But you have to be in obedience to His word and commands. And one of His commands is not to steal. Stealing is to go beyond what is due to you and cross and take what belong to others with out any right or permission. All what the people would collect by stealing and taking other people belonging or rights that will not help them because all will go away from them.

“And he said to me, "This is the curse that is going out over the whole land; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other, everyone who swears falsely will be banished. ⁴ The LORD Almighty declares, 'I will send it out, and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in his house and destroy it, both its timbers and its stones.” (Zechariah 5:3-4) This will be the outcome and the end of those who steal and collect their money with crooked ways.

So you need to be careful how to earn your living. God’s Word warning you today from doing wrong and evil; hard and honest work is required for you in earning your income. No injustice, stealing or abuse of others, otherwise this will only bring curse on your life.

In one point you need to be honest with the people and also to be honest with God. Let us read this real story that had happened with Jesus. **“Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be honest. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor. So the spies questioned him: "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" He saw through their duplicity and said to them, "Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?" "Caesar's," they replied. He said to them, ".” (Luke 20:20-25)** Jesus said. **“Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.”** What is due to the people and government we have to give, and what is due for God we also have to give.

The things of God are the tithes and offerings as we read here: **“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” (Malachi 3:8-10)** The tithes and the offering we have to bring to God by bringing them to the church that care for us and we are part off; otherwise we are stealing from God and from God’s church.

My dear and beloved: “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13) God wants to bless you but you need to repent. What you have done wrong you need to correct yourself by renouncing all your sins. While Jesus was on the cross one of the thieves who was crucified with Jesus, he took the opportunity and he said, **“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:42-43)** Therefore, **“Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.” (Hosea 14:2)** Take the opportunity and repent and ask the Lord to forgive you and receive you in His Kingdom as you agree to pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the sin of stealing. Lord I will give to the people what is due for them. And I will give the government what is due for them. And I will give to you and to your church what is belong to you and to your church. Lord Jesus accept me in your kingdom and remember me when you come. This all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen