

The word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and the marrow, and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

All scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

so that the man {or woman} of God may become mature, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

wednight title: "You shall not steal," The Eighth Commandment. Part 4.

We are still noting the principles concerning the eighth commandment in Exo 20:15 which says "You shall not steal."

And for now, before we closed the subject, I am just going to give you a list of some of the different areas where you can have things stolen from you or maybe you are a thief and stealing is your way of life.

Either way, it will be promoted and used by the kingdom of darkness to try and stop you momentum and motivation.

It can happen!

For example, In 2JO 1:6 And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.

Love means following His commandments, and His unifying commandment is that you conduct your lives in love.

2JO 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

There are a lot of smooth-talking charlatans loose in the world who refuse to believe that Jesus Christ was truly human, a flesh-and-blood human being.

Give them their true title: Deceiver! Antichrist!

Now, notice 2JO 1:8 Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

Be very careful around them so you don't lose out on what we've worked so diligently in together;

And notice John says at the end of the verse, "*I want you to get every reward you have coming to you.*"

2JO 1:9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

The context the apostle John is referring to is the fact anyone who gets so progressive in his thinking that he walks out on the teaching of Christ, walks out on God.

But whoever stays with the teaching, stays faithful to both the Father and the Son.

2JO 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting;

2JO 1:11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

In other words that would just give him a platform to perpetuate his evil ways, making you his partner.

Please notice that someone or something can be used by Satan and the kingdom of darkness to steal away our spiritual accomplishments by distracting or hindering us from going forward in the PPOG as well as our one PSD.

Now, because of this passage and many others, we can say the only true role model we should have is the one we develop in spiritual adulthood in our occupation with Jesus Christ.

And the point again is that our spiritual accomplishments must be guarded and cherished and we must be very careful that we do not allow anyone to take us away from our Lord.

You must learn to be occupied with TLJC and keep your eyes off of people.

As PRO 3:5 says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding."

When things seem to be chaotic and are filled with confusion that is when you need to: "Trust in the Lord **not** in people!"

Also, when you find yourself in a situation that is filled with "Cosmic Thinking" Do not lean on your own understanding.

Satan is subtle in his approaches to deceive man and believe or not, he knows a lot more about you than you even know about yourself.

We can't afford to be ignorant concerning these matters.

We must learn them and apply them to our life.

Always remember you cannot change other people; you can only change yourself.

This is done by the consistent perception, metabolization, and application of Bible doctrine.

You cannot change yourself through Christian fellowship, but only through perception of Bible doctrine.

Your relationship and your fellowship with God is the major issue.

When your relationship with God is straight, then your relationships with people will fall into line.

Changing yourself is a matter of consistent perception, metabolization and application of Bible Doctrine from which comes the consistent use of the ten problem solving devices of the predesigned plan of God.

There is no problem too great for these devices.

The most dramatic change in the life of any believer occurs when he is using all ten of these problem solving devices.

Therefore, Relationship with God must precede relationship with people. Christian fellowship is secondary to perception of doctrine.

Christian fellowship is never a substitute for fellowship with God or for learning Bible doctrine.

Christian fellowship is **not** the source of spiritual growth or momentum.

Christian fellowship has at least seven great disadvantages I have noted.

1. It establishes wrong priorities in the Christian life through the influence of confused believers.

This is when a weak believer manipulates anyone he can to accomplish his goals.

2. It is a distraction from Bible doctrine through preoccupation with romance or friendship.
3. It is the acquisition of legalism through association with legalistic and arrogant believers.
4. It involves anti-nomianism, therefore association with promiscuous believers, which is also distracting.
5. Using Christian fellowship as a dating bureau or a marriage pool is a distraction from growing in grace.
6. Christian fellowship often results in acquiring erroneous views of doctrine, or the ridicule of doctrine in a group of Christian believers.
7. Christian fellowship uses people as a crutch rather than learning and using the ten problem solving devices of the Christian way of life.

However, Christian fellowship does have some advantages.

For example:

- a. A lifetime friendships develop among positive believers while they're growing in grace.
- b. Encouragement from conversations among believers of like faith and practice.

Now, let's read the passage first and then I will give you some Greek Grammar principles behind the verse to make it more understandable.

The first verse is 1CO 3:16 which says Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Now, let me show you some of the exegesis here.

1Co 3:16 Do you not know that you [you is the second person plural = ya'll or believers] you all are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you [second person plural = ya'll]?

1CO 3:17 If any man destroys the temple of God **that is the church of God,** --- [notice the temple of God is called the Church of God.]

What does Paul say that God will do?

God will destroy him, for the temple of God is Holy, and that is what you [Second person plural = you all are.

Then in 1CO 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become foolish that he may become wise.

Don't fool yourself.

Don't think that you can be wise merely by being up-to-date with the news or because you have mastered the internet for your personal desires.

And then verse 19 tells us to be God's fool is the path to true wisdom.

1CO 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is the one who catches the wise in their craftiness";

Now, this a passage that also explains what the apostle Paul said in 1CO 11:27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

That is "not discerning" the value of the impeccability of our Lord's physical body as well as it can refer to His Church, the spiritual body of Christ or the Temple of God.

All three of those descriptions apply to our subject.

Not discerning the blood of the Lord or His spiritual death is to reject the Work of the Lord and Word of the Lord.

If you do so, you are called an enemy of Christ; PHI 3:18 For many keep walking, concerning whom I have warned you many times, and now continue to affirm, even weeping, the enemies of the cross of Christ.

Which is why true fellowship should be based upon 2CO 5:16 Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh or according to human viewpoint but rather divine viewpoint;

And what is divine viewpoint when it comes to the Church, the Temple of God?

It is EPH 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Again, what is divine viewpoint when it comes to the Church, the Temple of God?

The divine viewpoint of the church or the temple of God is found in such passages as JOH 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

What is divine viewpoint when it comes to the Church, the Temple of God?

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but gather together for the purpose of encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

By the way, if someone tries to discredit these passages that we have noted so far, be like the Bereans; ACT 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.

Now, for the best results and for the correct and the most accurate translation of any passage, it is wise to stay under the authority of the principle we call "ICE."

This means Bible doctrine must be taught based on three principles.

1. Isagogics is the historical setting of the passage.
2. Categories is the systematic theology developed from combining Scripture with Scripture.
3. Exegesis is the grammatical and syntactical analysis of the passage from the original languages.

Now, as we go forward in the PPOG and fulfilling our personal sense of destiny, it is important that we also know not "**what glorifies the Lord**" but "**how to glorify the Lord.**"

In 1CO 11:28 But let a man examine himself [not others], and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

1CO 11:29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body that is also the spiritual body rightly.

And remember what the apostle Paul said back in 1Co 3:17 that God will destroy him, for the temple of God is Holy, and that is what you are.

Well look at 1CO 11:30 now with a different understanding that is definitely applicable For this reason

What reason?

Because you have not judged or evaluated the Lord's body, His church, His temple, correctly.

For this reason many among you are weak [mentally] and sick [physically], and a number sleep or died.

Why?

Because they **did not** or **do not** discern the Lord's spiritual body which is His church, also called His Temple.

So we could also say For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep or died because they **did not** or **do not** discern the Lord's physical body which He kept impeccable or His spiritual body which is His church and His Temple.

The fact that His spiritual body presently also known as His church, His Temple will forever be known as the bride of Christ for all eternity and it cannot be overstated or should ever be taken for granted; Pro 20:25.

For remember, the bride of Christ will be occupied with her right man, TLJC, for all of eternity and she will do whatever her husband desires for all of eternity.

In fact, your life right now is being recorded by the Lord as to whether you are a winner believer or a loser believer, it all depends upon you!

For example, do you operate with the Temple of God with your spiritual gift when needed, well, ROM 12:6 says And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: Or do you neglect or reject your spiritual gift for 1TI 4:14 says Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you.

Or a the apostle Peter states in 1PE 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Notice the three main words I mentioned, exercise, neglect, serve.

Exercise -- ROM 12:6, let each exercise their gift accordingly:  
Neglect -- 1TI 4:14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you,  
Serve -- 1PE 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another

Now that is a great principle.

I.P. (Important principle): -The operation of your spiritual gift has been given to serve others in the Temple of God or the Church of Jesus Christ.

Do You?

Have You?

Or, will you?

***Have I become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?***

Perhaps this is another reason why in 1CO 11:31, the apostle writes But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged.

And how do you judge yourselves rightly?

PSD#1 - Rebound or confession of sin or rebound and recovery, if needed or necessary.

In 1CO 11:32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world or the cosmic system.

This commandment then, "You shall not steal" says that ***"If you don't have a right to a certain piece of property, keep your hands off!" — It doesn't belong to you!***

If you steal something, you are a thief who thinks you have the right to take what you can or whatever you are lusting after.

You are intruding upon and violating someone else's freedom.

All of us know how losing our freedom when it comes to our personal property creates in us a terrible emotional reaction from being robbed.

When someone steals from us, it feels like we have been raped or something evil has happened to us.

Why?

Because Satan loves to torture us to try and get even with us because our husband, TLJC, already shut the lid on his Angelic butt when He defeated Satan and the kingdom of darkness on the cross.

And He did so openly!

How do we know that?

We know that because we read in COL 2:13 And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

COL 2:14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Now what happened when this happened?

Well COL 2:15 tells us when and where all these things took place, including the time of the ultimate victory over sin and Satan;

Col 2:15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

So, in Act 5, we have three believers mentioned, Ananias and Sapphira, who did evil in the sight of the Lord, and then a man called Barnabas, known as the son of encouragement, who did right in the sight of the Lord.

Now, we can understand how and why people steal from people but do they really think they can steal from God?

Well, apparently they do understand how to *"rob from God"* because we are told that they did so in Mal 3:8-10.

So, let's look at the passage that warns the people of God to stop stealing from Him.

Let's begin in MAL 3:1 "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me (This is a reference to John the Baptist who paved or made the way for TLJC). And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the Lord of hosts.

The Lord is saying "Look! I'm sending my messenger on ahead to clear the way for Me."

And then suddenly, out of the blue, the Leader they've been looking for will enter his Temple as the Messenger of the New Covenant, the one they had been waiting for.

And the last part of verse 1 says "Look! He's on his way!" A Message from the mouth of the GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies.

MAL 3:2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

The question here is "Who can survive His appearance?"

MAL 3:3 goes on to say "And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness.

Now, here is a very important principle which is the fact that the Lord will take His place as a refiner of silver, as a cleanser of dirty clothes. He'll scrub the Levite priests clean, refine them like gold and silver, until they're fit for GOD, fit to present offerings of righteousness.

Notice that we are to be clean even before we make an offering to the Lord.

We know that because in MAT 5:17 we read "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.

MAT 5:18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.

MAT 5:19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

MAT 5:20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

MAT 5:21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'

MAT 5:22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Now, notice verse 23 very carefully, MAT 5:23 "If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

MAT 5:24 leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Notice that we are to be clean even before we make an offering to the Lord.

So back in Mal 3.

MAL 3:1 "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the Lord of hosts.

MAL 3:2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

MAL 3:3 "And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness.

MAL 3:4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

MAL 3:5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien, and do not fear Me," says the Lord of hosts.

MAL 3:6 "For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

MAL 3:7 "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of hosts." But you say, 'How shall we return?'

Now in MAL 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings.

MAL 3:9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!

MAL 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

MAL 3:11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it may not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the Lord of hosts.

This passage then says -- "Stop stealing from the Lord."