



“Beware”

Beware or Take Heed

Beware/Take Heed/Take Care/Watch Out!/Observe

Greek: properly, to stare at, i.e. (by implication) to discern clearly (physically or mentally); by extension, to attend to; to experience; passively, to appear:--behold, perceive, see, take heed

Take Heed/Beware/Keep Yourselves/Be On Your Guard

Greek: to watch, i.e. be on guard (literally or figuratively); by implication, to preserve, obey, avoid: beward, keep (self), observe, save

Beware or Take Heed

Beware/Take Heed/Be On Your Guard/Be Careful

Greek: (figuratively) to hold the mind towards, i.e. pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to, adhere to:-- (give) attend to, beware, be given to, give (take) heed (to unto); have regard.

Matthew 16:6 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees

Luke 21:34 But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

Luke 12:15 (NKJV)

And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Luke 12:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ Then He said to them, "**Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed**; for not *even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

Luke 12:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ And he said to them, "**Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness**, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Luke 12:15 (NIV)

¹⁵ Then he said to them, "**Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed**; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Covetousness

Marked by inordinate desire for wealth or possessions or for another's possessions (Merriam-Webster)

Exodus 20:17

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor's."

Desire for Wealth-Foundational Principles

1 Timothy 6:6-11

⁶ Now 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 clothing, with these **we shall be content**.

⁹ But those who **desire to be rich** fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

Desire for Wealth-Foundational Principles

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have...

Ephesians 5:3,5 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Colossians 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Covetousness

Marked by inordinate desire for wealth or possessions or for another's possessions (Merriam-Webster)

Avarice, i.e. (by implication) fraudulency, extortion, covetous practices, greediness (Greek)

Avarice

Insatiable greed for riches; inordinate, miserly desire to **gain and hoard** wealth (Random House)

An extremely strong wish to **get or keep** money or possessions (Cambridge)

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴ But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?"

¹⁵ And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

¹⁸ So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there **I will store all my crops and my goods.**

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry." '

²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

²¹ **So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."**

Where is this seen in the life of a Christian?

- Amassing **wealth** and not being “rich toward God”
- Adding to our possessions to keep up with our neighbors, friends, family, society in general, etc.
- Buying possessions “Because I can”
- Being so obsessed by “things” it becomes our idol

Matthew 6:24 (NASB) No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Linked to Stewardship

- Seeking a balance between having enough money (due to longer lifespans, unexpected expenses, etc.) versus at the end of our life having an exorbitant amount of wealth that was not put to use for the Lord
- We can neglect to do something and be sinful even if we do not have a covetous mindset
- **Luke 3:9-11** ...every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."
¹⁰ So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?"
¹¹ He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

- **1 Timothy 6:17-19**
 - ¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.
 - ¹⁸ *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,
 - ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.
- **Hebrews 13:16** But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
- **1 John 3:17** “But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

Some Questions to Ask Ourselves

- What is my attitude towards wealth?
- Am I a good steward of my wealth?
- Am I storing up what could be used to help others?
- Could I be using my wealth more effectively to be “rich toward God” by doing good works?
- Do I “throw money” at a problem instead of investing time and effort to be personally invested in helping others?

Matthew 7:15-20

¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit.

¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

2 Peter 2:1-2 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be **false teachers among you**, who will **secretly bring in destructive heresies**, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.

² And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

Acts 20:29-31 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves **will come in among you**, not sparing the flock.

³⁰ **Also from among yourselves men will rise up**, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

³¹ Therefore watch...

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world

Examples of where we see this in the church

- AD 70
- Foundations
- Deity of Christ
- Improper use of treasury
- House-church movement
- Sinners accepted as members
- Divorce and remarriage for a variety of reasons

If it is true it is not new and
if it is new it is not true

Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Ephesians 5:6-11

⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*.

Hebrews 3:12

¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God

Context 3:1-11

- As Christians we are also going through the wilderness of this world
- We are seeking the “promised land” of heaven
- Like Jesus and Moses, we must strive to be faithful
- We must “beware” of failing to reach that “rest”

Unbelief

Greek: faithlessness, i.e. (negatively) disbelief (lack of Christian faith), or (positively) unfaithfulness (disobedience)

Luke 8:13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away

Departing from God

How can this become evident in the life of a Christian?

- Could completely fall away. Normally, it is a slow process of weakening over time
- “Going through the motions” during worship service and putting in the minimum amount of effort as a Christian
- Not pursuing the “good works” God expects us to do
- Not working for the Lord through the local church
- Apathetic/Indifferent towards the needs of others
- Not letting our light shine and “denying Jesus before men”
- Sins of omission

1 Corinthians 10:5-11 (illustrates many ways to fall)

- 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall
- 13 God provides a way of escape

How can we help each other remain faithful?

Hebrews 3:12-14

¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called "*Today*," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.