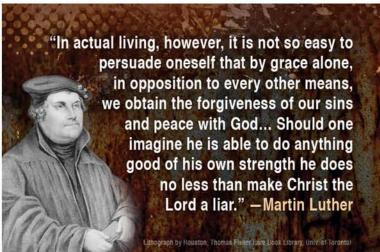


"Sin is not canceled by lawful living, for no person is able to live up to the Law. The Law reveals guilt, fills the conscience with terror, and drives men to despair.

Much less is sin taken away by maninvented endeavors. The fact is, the more a person seeks credit for himself by his own efforts, the deeper he goes into debt. Nothing can take away sin except the grace of God."

Lithograph by Houston; Thomas Flaher Rare Book Library, Univ. of Toronto)

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Ten Commandments:

- Reveal God's Character
- Represent God's Judgment
- Reflect God's Grace

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You shall not steal. —Exodus 20:15 ESV

You shall not steal. —Exodus 20:15 ESV

Affirms the Legitimate Ownership of Property

001c.tif 02.tif

You shall not steal. —Exodus 20:15 ESV

Forbids the Illegitimate Acquisition of Property

What Does It Mean to Steal?

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Stealing = to take another person's property without permission and without intent of returning it.

Things

Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service,

05.tif 06.tif

as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

—Colossians 3:22 ESV

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The wicked borrows but does not pay back... —Psalm 37:21 ESV

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Trade

Unequal weights are an abomination to the LORD, and false scales are not good.

—Proverbs 20:23 ESV

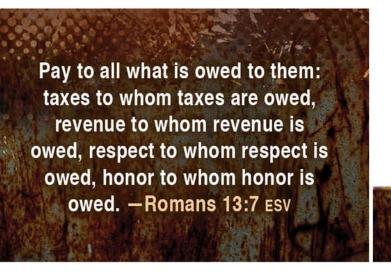
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They overcharge, use false measures, and fix the scales to cheat the customers.

— Amos 8:5 (modern paraphrase)



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Talents

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Matthew 25:14-30

Tithes

17a.tif 18.tif

⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, "How have we robbed you?" In your tithes and contributions... ¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

—Malachi 3:8, 10 ESV

How Do You Acquire With a Clear Conscience?

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Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

—Ephesians 4:28 ESV

How Do You Acquire With a Clear Conscience?

Work Diligently | Ephesians 4:28

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In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty. —Proverbs 14:23 ESV

Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it. —Proverbs 13:11 ESV

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How Do You Acquire With a Clear Conscience?

Invest Wisely | Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. —Proverbs 21:5 ESV

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How Do You Acquire With a Clear Conscience?

Pray Earnestly | Matthew 7:7-11

⁷Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?

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10Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

—Matthew 7:7-11 ESV

How Do You Acquire With a Clear Conscience?

Give Generously | Prov. 3:9-10, 11:25

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⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. ²⁵Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

−Proverbs 3:9-10, 11:25 ESV

6...whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

—2 Corinthians 9:6-8 ESV

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"The land of a rich man produced plentifully, "7 and he thought to himself, "What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?" 18 And he said, "I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods."

19 "'And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." —Luke 12:16-21 ESV

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What is the Real Issue in Theft?

"The heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart."—Adrian Rogers

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*And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham." —Luke 19:8-9 ESV

"Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can." —John Wesley

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For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? — Mark 8:36 ESV

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