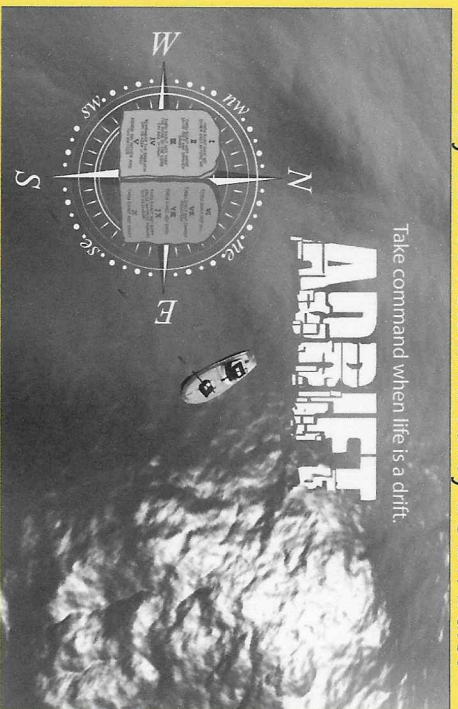


Sunday Dec. 30 Petaluma Valley BC Dr. Durst

Take command when life is a drift.



C10 Coveting or Community

Deut. 5:21; Proverbs 4:23-26; Matt. 15:11-20, 1 Thess.

5:16-22

**Deut. 5:21** Command 10: "Do not covet another person's ..." To covet something not yours is to abandon thanksgiving to God for his provision in order to cultivate distraction for what another has. Coveting weakens community. Coveting is the underlying motive to transgress of any of the commands. **Coveting** is acquiring a taste for a sin. **Sanctification** is acquiring a taste for righteousness through gratitude. Entertaining immoderate desire for what God has given to another means "sin is crouching at the door." Gen. 4:6-7.

**Coveting lets conscience and faith drift towards the rocks. Are you steering by command or drifting with desire?** All the transgressions identified in the 10 Commands rest on a foundation of coveting.

**Apologetic Moment:** Doesn't this injunction against "coveting a man's male or female slave" mean that the Bible condones slavery? **Answer:** Beware of reading a 1200 BC text with 21<sup>st</sup> century eyes. Most slaves in ancient days were indentured servants, who in Israel

would be freed in the seventh year. Chattel slavery did not develop until the cotton gin was used in the 18<sup>th</sup> century American South.

**Proverbs 4:23-26** **Compass check your heart by the commands to correct your steering.** Cultivate holy affections not destructive ones. Acquire good friends and good taste. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Avoid cardinal sins and nurture cardinal virtues: wisdom, courage, temperance and justice. Heed the alarm of the conscience set off by the Spirit. Check your willingness to walk the line. Baptism is a pledge not of perfection but of commitment to keep conscience clear through confession and increasing Christ-like character.

**Matt. 15:11-20: Keep your inner compass clean for it steers your life.** Which is the more worrisome, dirty hands or dirty hearts? Jesus was sick and tired of superficial, surface obedience and the utter neglect of heart religion. Take a scripture bath daily. John 15:3 Focus on washed hearts not hands. The work of the Spirit is sanctification: washing, cleansing, strengthening. The Words of Jesus make clean.

**1 Thess. 5:16-22: Cultivate righteous affections.** When your heart is thankful, the Spirit fills your sails in any sea.

**Bible reading in 2019:** If you believe this is true, would you commit to bathing daily in the Word? Being ever ready to be asked and to ask three questions? 1. Where are you reading? 2. What is God saying to you there? 3. What are you doing about it? Deep or wide reading will work.