

# I Bequeath My Pastor's Soul to the Devil

by Thomas Brooks

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*Thomas Brooks warns against the idolatry of covetousness and its spiritual consequences in his sermon.*

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 5:10, Matthew 6:24, Mark 8:36, Luke 12:15, Colossians 3:5, 1 Timothy 6:9-10, Hebrews 13:5, James 4:4, 1 John 4:5

**Topics:** "Covetousness", "Idolatry"

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## Description

Thomas Brooks delivers a powerful sermon on the dangers of covetousness, labeling it as explicit idolatry and a pervasive sin that has infected all levels of society. He emphasizes that a covetous person places their love and trust in worldly riches, neglecting God and spiritual matters, which ultimately leads to ruin. Brooks illustrates this with a poignant story of a greedy banker who, on his deathbed, bequeaths his soul and those of others to the devil due to their failure to recognize the spiritual dangers of their worldly pursuits. The sermon serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of prioritizing material wealth over spiritual well-being.

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## Transcript

"Covetousness, which is idolatry." Colossians 3:5

Covetousness is explicit idolatry.

Covetousness is the darling sin of our nation.

This leprosy has infected all sorts and ranks of men.

Covetousness being idolatry, and the root of all evil,

is highly provoking to God.

Whatever a man loves most and best--that is his god.

The covetous man looks upon the riches of the world

as his heaven--his happiness--his great all.

His heart is most upon the world,

his thoughts are most upon the world,

his affections are most upon the world,

his discourse is most about the world.

He who has his mind taken up with the world, and chiefly delighted with the world's music--he has also his tongue tuned to the same key, and takes his joy and comfort in speaking of nothing else but the world and worldly things. If the world is in the heart--it will break out at the lips. A worldly-minded man speaks of nothing but worldly things. "They are of the world, therefore they speak of the world," 1 John 4:5. The love of this world oils the tongue for worldly discourses, and makes men . . .

forget God,

neglect Christ,

despise holiness,

forfeit heaven.

Ah! the time, the thoughts, the strength, the efforts, which are spent upon the world, and the things of the world; while sinners' souls lie a-bleeding, and eternity is hastening upon them!

I have read of a greedy banker, who was always best when he was most in talking of money and the world. Being near his death, he was much pressed to make his will. Finally he dictates:

First, I bequeath my own soul to the devil

--for being so greedy for the muck of this world!

Secondly, I bequeath my wife's soul to the devil

--for persuading me to this worldly course of life.

Thirdly, I bequeath my pastor's soul to the devil

--because he did not show me the danger I lived in,  
nor reprove me for it.

"People who want to get rich fall into temptation and  
a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that  
plunge men into ruin and destruction." 1 Timothy 6:9

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/i-bequeath-my-pastors-soul-to-the-devil/>

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