

# GLUTTONY

## I. INTRODUCTION

A. Gluttony is defined as “excess in eating or drinking.”<sup>1</sup> “Glutton” is from Middle English *glotoun*, from Anglo-French *glutun*, *glotun*, from Latin *glutton-*, *glutto*; akin to Latin *gluttire* to swallow, *gula* throat, Old English *ceole*. The first known use was in the 13th century.”<sup>2</sup>

B. We do not hear many sermons about gluttony, yet the Bible does deal with this subject, especially in principle.

C. Let us study this subject carefully.

## II. BIBLE VERSES DEALING WITH GLUTTONY

A. Deuteronomy 21:20. “Glutton” is from “*za<sup>^</sup>lal (zaw-lal)*”; A primitive root . . . to *shake* (as in the wind), that is, to *quake*; figuratively to *be loose* morally, *worthless* or *prodigal*.”<sup>3</sup>

B. Proverbs 23:20,21. “Gluttonous” and “Glutton” are from “*zala*l.”

C. Matthew 11:19. “Gluttonous” is *phagos (fag'-os)*; From *phago*; *fag'-o*; a *glutton*.”

D. Titus 1:12. “Idle gluttons” is *argai gasteres*.

1. *Argai* is from “*argos (ar-gos)*” . . . *inactive*, that is, *unemployed*; (by implication) *lazy*, *useless*.”

2. *Gasteres* is from “*gaster (gas-tare)*”; Of uncertain derivation; the *stomach*; by analogy the *matrix*; figuratively a *gourmand*.”

3. “Mere gormandizers. Two vices seem here to be attributed to them, which indeed commonly go together - gluttony and sloth. An industrious man will not be likely to be a gormandizer, and a gormandizer will not often be an industrious man. The mind of the poet, in this, seems to have conceived of them first as an indolent, worthless people; and then immediately to have recurred to the cause - that they were a race of gluttons, a people whose only concern was the stomach.”<sup>4</sup>

## III. OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING GLUTTONY

A. “Gluttony is not to be equated with fatness, though a glutton will likely be

overweight . . . . Obesity is not necessarily a result of gluttony, though it very well may be . . . . Gluttony in the broadest scriptural sense involves the ravenous, immoderate indulgence of any physical appetite . . . .”<sup>5</sup>

B. Gluttony emphasizes the fleshly and de-emphasizes the spiritual.

1. Romans 16:17,18

2. Philippians 3:18,19

3. John Milton wrote: “Swinish gluttony never looks to heaven amidst its gorgeous feast; but with besotted, base ingratitude, cravens and blasphemes his feeder.”<sup>6</sup>

C. Gluttony harms the body. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

D. Gluttony violates the principle of self-control.

1. The son of Deuteronomy 21:20 refused to control himself.

2. Acts 24:25

3. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

4. Galatians 5:23

5. 2 Timothy 3:3

6. Titus 1:8

7. 2 Peter 1:6

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

A. The glutton shall come to poverty. Proverbs 23:21

B. Let us learn to control our appetites so as to better serve God.

C. Obey the plan of salvation.

D. Live faithfully.

#### **ENDNOTES**

1. Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, (Springfield, MA: G. & C. Merriam Co., 1971), p. 357
2. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/glutton>, November 6, 2013
3. Word definitions are from Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc., unless otherwise noted.
4. Albert Barnes, Barnes' Notes on the New Testament, (Grand Rapid, MI: Kregel Publications, 1974), p. 1194
5. Bobby Cullum, "Gluttony — The 'Acceptable' Sin," The Restorer, September 1983, p. 14
6. Cullum, p. 15