

Greed and its consequences

The last few days we have been shocked with the news of grand scale fraud of 2 financiers causing financial loss to thousands of people who put their money and trust in two financiers Bernie Madoff and Allan Stanford who were possessed with greed and self-indulgence

Definition of Greed, it is the [self-serving](#) desire for the pursuit of [money](#), [wealth](#), [power](#), [food](#), or other [possessions](#), especially when this denies the same goods to others. It is considered a deadly sin.

An example of greed is the wheeling and dealing of Billionaire financier and cricket entrepreneur Allen Stanford. He has been charged by US regulators over an alleged 16 billion dollar fraud.

[The Securities and Exchange Commission](#) said it was alleging fraud "of a shocking magnitude" with "tentacles throughout the world". A complaint was filed against Allen Stanford and three of his companies for "orchestrating a fraudulent, multi-billion dollar investment scheme". Stanford and the close circle of family and friends with whom he runs his businesses perpetuated a massive fraud based on false promises and fabricated historical return data to prey on investors," an SEC spokesman said.

Regulators claim Stanford International Bank, through a network of advisers, sold \$ 16 billion worth of so-called "certificates of deposit" to investors promising "improbable and unsubstantiated" high returns.

Buyers of these CDs were told these deposits were safe, it is alleged. Stanford has been placed under a temporary restraining order and has had his assets frozen. The Texas-born businessman currently holds dual citizenship with Antigua and Barbuda.

The greed of this businessman caused him to lie and deceive and steal money from thousands of people who are now counting their losses.

Another example of greed, lies and deceit is the life and business of Mr. Madoff of New York.

Mr. Madoff was charged with securities fraud on Dec. 11 2008 after confessing to family members that his money-management business was a fraud whose losses could be as high as \$50 billion. His bail terms confine him to his apartment under 24-hour surveillance until his case is resolved by a trial or, more likely, by a guilty plea.

The clients who trusted [Bernard L. Madoff](#) still do not know exactly what he did with their money. But they know what he did not do with it: He did not buy any of those blue-ship [stocks](#) and [Treasury](#) bills listed on their account statements over the last 13 years. The court-appointed trustee who is winding down Mr. Madoff's business said on Friday that his team had searched records going back almost to 1993 and found no evidence that any securities were bought for investors during that time.

This is a human tragedy like any other tragedy, and we should be getting help from the government like any other victims," said one Madoff investor, who declined to give her name. "I lost my entire life savings that I worked for my entire life."

Thousands of investors lost their hard earned monies all because of greed of two totally evil men, greedy for money, greedy for power, greedy for deluxe lifestyle, greedy for popularity, causing thousands of people to suffer great financial loss.

Greed angers God and is punished by God

Isaiah 57:17, "I was enraged by his sinful greed; I punished him, and hid my face in anger, Yet he kept on in his willful ways."

The Lord Jesus calls people full of greed hypocrites and blind who need to repent

Matthew 23:15, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶ Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean."

Greed comes from within a men's evil heart and makes him unclean

Mark 7:20, "He went on: 'What comes out of a man is what makes him `unclean.' ²¹ For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and make a man `unclean.' "

Greed comes out of a depraved mind

Romans 1:28, "Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind; to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they are senseless, faithless, heartless, and ruthless."

Jesus warns against greed

Luke 12:15, " Then Jesus 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."

An example of God's punishment to man's greed is what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar as recorder in Daniel chapter 4, ²⁸ All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace

of Babylon, ³⁰ he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" ³¹ The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. ³² You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

God says in His Word be sure your sin will find you out.

Numbers 32:23, "But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out." God promised great blessings to His people provide they drove out their enemies from Israel but they did not obey the Lord and because of greed in their heart they intermarried with the daughter of their enemies and used the enemies as workers and slaves instead of driving them out as the Lord has commanded.

Both Madoff and Stanford carried on their evil schemes for many years but eventually their sins found them out. But lengthy prison terms is not going to help the thousands of victims.

Pride or vanity is considered the source from which greed arises. It is identified as a desire to be more important or attractive than others, failing to give compliments to others though they may be deserving of them and excessive love of self. Dante's definition was "love of self perverted to hatred and contempt for one's neighbor." In perhaps the best-known example, the story of [Lucifer](#), pride (his desire to compete with God) was what caused his fall from Heaven, and his resultant transformation into [Satan](#).

How can we be saved from greed? The answer is we must obey the commands of the Lord Jesus as recorded in Mark 12:28, The most important command " answered Jesus, "**Love the Lord** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength ³¹The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

We will be delivered from greed and selfishness when we follow these instructions from our Lord Jesus.

Love Lifted Me

- 1. I was sinking deep in sin,
far from the peaceful shore
Very deeply stained within,**

**sinking to rise no more
But the Master of the sea heard
my despairing cry
From the waters lifted me,
now save am I**

**Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could save
Love lifted me**

Repeat

**2. All my heart to Him I give,
ever to Him I cling
In His blessed presence live,
ever His praises sing**

**Love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best
songs**

**Faithful, loving service, too,
to Him belongs
Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could save
Love lifted me**

Repeat

3. Souls in danger, look above,

Jesus completely saves

He will lift you by His love,

out of the angry waves

He's the Master of the sea,

billows His will obey

He your Saviour wants to be-

be saved today

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!

When nothing else could save

Love lifted me

Repeat