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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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The Stain of Over Indulgence

Proverbs 23:19-21 & 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Series

Stained: The Truth About Sin, Salvation and Sanctification

Three Facts of Life

- ❖ Sin is real.

Romans 5:12 (NIV) — **12** Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned...(See also 1 John 1:5-10)

- ❖ Salvation is sure.

John 3:16 (NIV) — **16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- ❖ Sanctification (Holiness) is possible.

Philippians 2:12–13 (NIV) — **12** Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Gluttony and Drunkenness: Too Much of a Good Thing

- ❖ Over Indulgence leads to physical and spiritual lethargy.

Proverbs 23:19–21 (NIV) — **19** Listen, my son, and be wise, and set your heart on the right path: **20** Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, **21** **for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.**

Ephesians 5:15–18 (NIV) — **15** Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. **18** **Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ...**(See also Luke 21:29-36)

- ❖ Over Indulgence makes us insensitive to the needs of others.

James 5:1–6 (NIV) — **1** Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. **2** Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. **3** Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. **4** Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. **5** **You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.** **6** You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

- ❖ Moderation and sobriety keep us alert to the presence and purposes of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:4–8 (NIV) — **4** But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. **5** You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. **6** So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. (See also 1:13-16; 4:7; 5:8-9)

Homework

- ❖ Pray and ask the Lord to reveal places of over indulgence in your life.
- ❖ In this season of Lent, consider fasting or “giving something up” as a means to greater awareness of God’s presence and purpose in your life.