

Now my dear friends, we have concluded our illustrations of the commandments. This last one makes an excellent finish to them. You know that when a carpenter drives in a nail which he wishes shall hold very fast, he takes his hammer, and if it be a wrought iron nail, he bends over the end of it where it has come through, and drives it again into the wood. This is called *clenching* the nail. This makes it firm. Now it cannot be drawn out.

And just in the same way the tenth commandment is a sort of *clencher* to all the rest. If we keep this commandment properly, we shall be in very little danger of breaking any of the others. It directs our attention to our hearts; and teaches us to keep them right. If we can only keep our hearts right, we shall not have much trouble with anything else. This is the reason why the Bible says, "Keep thine heart with *all diligence*, for out of it are the issues of life."

But the very hardest thing we have to do, is to keep the heart right. If we attempt to do this in our own strength, we shall succeed about as well as if we should stand at the door of our house, and try to keep the air out by beating it with our fists. In spite of all we can do, evil thoughts will creep in, and covetous desires will spring up. Well, what should we do, when we find them there? We should be sorry for having them, and ask God to forgive us, and take them all away.

"Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, *cleanse the thoughts of our hearts* by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit; that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."