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**Fellowship of Companies for Christ  
 East of the River Chapter  
 April 20, 2016**

- Welcome! Opening prayer and praise reports
- Today's Topic: **The Bribery Coast**

*He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.* –Proverbs 15:27

If we're not diligent, we can "coast" into bribery, to the eventual hurt of ourselves, families, businesses and testimonies as followers of Jesus.

First, let's define some terms:

- Bribe** = something given to influence a person to act dishonestly
- Commission** = allowance for a service rendered
- Entertainment** = hospitality
- Finder's fee** = reward for discovering an opportunity
- Gift** = present
- Incentive** = something inciting one to action or effort; stimulus
- Is there a distinction between Legality and Morality?**



Second, let's explore various passages of Scripture that pertain to bribery:

**OUTCOMES OF BRIBERY:**

- Bribery makes sinners (contrasted by David's integrity) - Psalm 26:1-12
- Bribery corrupts the conscience (blinds the wise, and perverts their words) - Exodus 23:8
- Bribery perverts justice - Isaiah 1:23
- Bribery brings chaos - Amos 5:12
- Bribery merits punishment - Amos 2:6

**EXAMPLES OF BRIBERY:**

- Balak** tried to bribe Balaam into cursing the Jews - Numbers 22:7, 18, 37
- Delilah** was bribed to discover Samson's secret - Judges 16:4-5
- Samuel's sons** took bribes and their leadership was rejected - 1 Samuel 8:3
- Benhadad** took a bribe from Asa to war against the Jews - 1 Kings 15:18-19
- Shemalah** was bribed to deceive and scare Nehemiah - Nehemiah 6:10-13
- Haman** bribed the people to facilitate the eradication of the Jews - Esther 3:8-9
- Judas** was bribed to betray Jesus - Matthew 27:3-9
- The soldiers were bribed** to lie about the empty tomb - Matthew 28:12-15
- Simon** tried to bribe his way into receiving the Holy Spirit - Acts 8:18
- Felix** sought to receive a bribe from Paul to secure his release - Acts 24:25-26

Evaluate yourself from 1 (low) to 10 (high) in terms of being being bribe-free.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits might you enjoy by being bribe-free?										
What specific actions can you take to do so?										

- Next meeting here on May 4 @ 7:30 am
- Upcoming news/events, closing prayer