

Coin Clipping

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Toward the end of thirteenth century, Edward I of England commissioned Florentine artists from Italy to coin currency for England. These artists procured sheets of gold and silver for their work. From these sheets of gold and silver, coins were cut and then hammered into shape. Because of this method, the coins were not given an exact weight and lacked a defined rimmed edge that our coins have today. This lack of true uniformity led to trouble almost immediately.

As these coins came into circulation, dishonest men found it profitable to clip the edges of the new currency. Over time a person could accumulate a savings of clippings and either mint new coins or melt the precious metal



Unclipped Coin



Partly Clipped Coin



Clipped Coin

down and sell it by weight. This was easier to some than working an honest job to make a living. It wasn't long until many coins were not worth what they once were, their weight and shape being significantly reduced.

The clipping of coins created chaos in the monetary system and commerce. Unbeknownst to some, people would receive clipped coins of a given value and try to reuse them but the coins would be rejected because of their obvious defacement. No doubt this led to some heated exchanges at the market place.

To curb the illegal activity, the Parliament of England passed the Treason Act of 1415 making it a crime of high treason to clip coins. Many a ne'er-do-well was led up Holburn Hill and executed as a public example.

Our great King has commissioned his church to keep His holy precepts. We know that: His commandments are not grievous (1 John 5:3), the statutes of the Lord *are* right (Ps. 19:8), and 'the judgments of the Lord *are* true *and* righteous altogether' (Ps. 19:9). That standard that God has set is sure (Ps. 19:7), he has meted out a just weight and determined it.

A just weight and balance *are* the LORD's: all the weights of the bag *are* his work. (Prov. 16:11)

The measure that God set, is set for ever, his word is settled in heaven. (Ps. 119:89)

The convictions that have been passed down to us from our fathers are still sure. The Holy Ghost did not instill convictions in the church for them to be changed later. However, we have some amongst us who having handled these precious truths find it easier to clip a conviction here and there for their own benefit. It's much more convenient to allow heavy tithers to watch a little Hollywood than to uphold a just standard. *Clip, clip*. Why fight with rebellious young people over short skirts and wild hairdos, it is just a passing trend isn't it? *Clip*.

On and on the clipping goes until what we have in our hands isn't quite what it used to be. It has lost its value. They tell us that they are still Apostolic and Old-Time Pentecost, but they just don't measure up. Their holiness just isn't what it used to be.

A false balance *is* abomination to the LORD: but a just weight *is* his delight. (Prov. 11:1)

Conviction clipping is causing confusion in our fellowship. We meet together with others to have church and their new worship isn't what our old-time worship is. Their new songs don't quite hold the weight that those old song book songs do. After fellowshiping with spiritual coin clippers you leave with the feeling you've been short-changed.

Hold to the old ways; they're still worth something. Someday when the church gives to the master those talents He has placed in our hands—pray they have brought Him profit and pray they are not clipped!

(Article originally appeared in the Apostolic Voice)

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