The False Security of Wealth

- God’s Will For Wealth
  James 5:1-8

- October 18, 2017
The False Security of Wealth

- It Is Possible To Learn How To Make Money, Yet Not Learn How To Live

- James 5:1-8 Is An Indictment Of The Selfishly Wealthy
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(James 5:1-6 NIV) Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon 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 workmen 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 innocent men, who were not opposing you.
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- Being Rich Is Neither Good Or Bad

- It’s What Is Done With Riches That Makes The Difference
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• Those Who:
  • Hoard Wealth
  • Fail To Pay A Fair Wage
  • Waste Riches On Luxury & Self Indulgence

• Are Fattening Themselves For Their Own Destruction
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(James 5:7-8 NIV) (7) Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. (8) You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.
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• When You Hoard Wealth
  • Your Wealth Can Rot
  • Your Clothes Can Be Moth Eaten
  • Your Gold And Silver Can Be Corroded

Don’t Place Hopes & Don’t Center Desires On Wealth Or Riches
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- God Gives Us Wealth
  Not To Be Selfish With
  But To Be Self-Less With

- We Need To Be Storing Up Treasure
  That Will Be Eternally Significant
  (In Heaven)
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- Our Faith And Our Finances Are Inseparable

- We Cannot Experience Peace And Wisdom In Our Finances Until We Have Accepted A Position As His Steward

- A Steward Is Someone Who Manages Another Person's Resources
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• **God Is The Owner**: 

  • (Psa 24:1 NIV) *The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;*
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• *(Luke 16:10-12 NIV)* "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. (11) So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? (12) And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

• *A Christian Who Refuses God’s Perspective Will Never Experience God’s Plan For Their Finances*
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- When We Die We Leave Everything

(Mat 6:19-20 NIV) "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. (20) But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."
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• Wealth Is Everything That We Own:
  • Our Money
  • Our Possessions
  • Our Family
  • Our Creative Ability

• Wealth Is Everything We Have Acquired Since We Arrived And Everything We Must Leave When We Go
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Two Choices In Wealth

- Wealth Can Be Creative And Productive For The Kingdom
- Wealth Can Be Wasted
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Worldly Folklore Surrounding Wealth:

• It Takes Breaks To Get Ahead
• It Takes Money To Make Money
• If You Are Honest You Won't Get Ahead

• Worldly Principles Don't Line Up With God's Wealth Principles
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- Creation of Wealth is both a Gift and a Talent

- It is possible for anyone who is willing to sacrifice --- to achieve wealth

- Wealth occurs when we follow God’s Principles of Finances
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• Gaining Of Wealth As An End In Itself Is A Poor Investment Of A Life:
• It Requires A Great Deal Of Time To The Virtual Exclusion Of Almost Everything Else
• There Is No Correlation Between Wealth And Happiness
• There Are A Lot Of Wealthy People Who Will Go To Bed Miserable Tonight
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- (Prov 10:22 NIV) The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.

- **When God Brings Wealth---**
  
  *It Is Wealth Without Worry!*
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- **Our Commitment To God’s Word Is Displayed In The Use Of Our Money**

- (2 Pet 3:11 NIV) Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives
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Correct Attitude Towards Wealth:

• Find The Purpose For The Wealth That God Has Supplied

• Understand That Money & Wealth Are Training Grounds To Develop Trustworthiness
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- (Luke 16:11 NIV) So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

- Wealth In Life Is a Test

- Can You Be Trusted with True Wealth?

- What Have You Done With Your Wealth?
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- Until A Christian Has Experienced Freedom In Finances -- They Will Never Experience God’s Total Plan For Their Lives

- If You Are Being Lead By The Spirit---Your Finances Will Follow
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• James Rebuked The Wealthy For:
  • How They Got Rich And
  • How They Maintained Their Wealthy Lifestyles At The Expense Of Others

• The Wealthy Would Not Pay Their Starving Workers Wages Daily

• The Wealthy Would Control The Courts Subverting Justice
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- James Called Out The Wealthy For How They Used Their Wealth:
- Storing Up More Than They Would Use Or Need
- Keeping Their Wealth From Others Who Needed It
- Living A Self-Indulgent & Luxurious Lifestyle
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- **James Gave Us Something To Consider:**
  - Wealth & Riches Not Used Correctly
    - Will Vanish
    - Will Erode Our Character & Life
    - Will Bring God’s Judgment

- **Wealth & Riches Will Be Opportunity For Calamity Or Blessing**
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- It Is Good To Have The Things That Money Can Buy, Provided You Also Have The Things That Money Cannot Buy.

- “It is possible to be ”poor in this world” and yet rich in the next world. It is also possible to be ”rich in this world“ and poor in the next world”

- What We Keep, We Lose. What We Give To God, We Keep, And He Adds Interest To It

W. Wiersbe --Bible Exposition Commentary