

SERIES: Ecclesiastes
“What’s Wrong With Wealth?”
Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

The Oppression of the Poor (5:8-9)

- Do not be **shocked** by injustice.
- The political maneuvering of those in power results in oppression of the **powerless**.

Seven Warnings to the Wealthy (5:10-17)

- Money doesn’t **satisfy**. (10)
 - The more we have the more we **want**.
 - The only thing worse than the addiction money brings is the **emptiness** it leaves.
- More wealth brings more **burdens**. (11)
- Wealth creates **worry**. (12)
 - Benjamin Franklin- “Discontentment makes rich men **poor**. Contentment makes poor men **rich**.”
- Wealth can be **hurtful**. (13)
- Wealth can **perish**. (14)
 - Earlier we saw the danger of the **love** of money.
 - Now we see the pain of the **loss** of money.
- You can’t take wealth with you when you **die**. (15-16)
- Wealth creates **misery** rather than joy. (17)
 - “Darkness”- It affected his **spirit**.
 - “Vexation”- It affected his **mind**.
 - “Sickness”- It affected his **body**.
 - “Anger”- It affected his **heart**.

Wealth and Worship- The Believer’s Perspective (5:18-20)

- Wealth without God leads to misery, but not all wealth is condemned.
 - Wealth is an awful **curse** without God.
 - Wealth can be a **gift** from God.
 - Wealth is a great **temptation** even for those who love God.
- God not only gives wealth, but he gives us the ability to **enjoy** it.
 - If you have been blessed with prosperity, it may be your greatest trial.
 - How you use your wealth will determine if your wealth will use you.

John Wesley’s Three Teachings on Money

- **Make** as much money as you can.
- **Save** as much money as you can.
- **Give** as much money as you can.

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

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