

THE VANITY OF WEALTH Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

I. The Reasons for the Vanity of Wealth (8-17).

A. Wealth can cause oppression (8-9).

James 5:3-4: **Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you** and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, **which you kept back by fraud, cry out;** and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

B. Wealth can cause discontent (10).

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for **I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.**

1 Timothy 6:8: And having food and clothing, **with these we shall be content.**

C. Wealth can cause dependents (11).

Proverbs 14:20: The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor, **but the rich has many friends.**

Proverbs 19:4: **Wealth makes many friends,** but the poor is separated from his friend.

D. Wealth can cause insomnia (12).

Proverbs 23:5: Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; **they fly away like an eagle toward heaven.**

E. Wealth can cause hurt (13).

1 Timothy 6:9: But those who desire to be rich fall into **temptation** and a **snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.**

F. Wealth can cause false security (14).

Proverbs 11:28: **He who trusts in his riches will fall,** but the righteous will flourish like foliage.

G. Wealth can be left behind (15-16).

Job 1:21: And he said: **“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there.** The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”

1 Timothy 6:7: For we brought nothing into this world, **and it is certain we can carry nothing out.**

I. Wealth can cause misery (17).

Psalm 39:6: Surely every man walks about like a shadow; **surely they busy themselves in vain**; he heaps up riches, and **does not know who will gather them**.

II. The Reason for the Enjoyment of Wealth (18-20).

Ecclesiastes 2:24: **Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor**. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

1 Timothy 6:17: Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, **who gives us richly all things to enjoy**.