

## HOARDING ONE'S WEALTH

James 5:1-6

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Those who are rich face a very strong temptation that it can consume him/her unless he/she lives very close to the Lord. The temptation they struggle with is to store up, to bank, to put away money instead of using it to meet the needs of the desperate and dying in the world. The Bible never condemns ALL rich people, only the rich who store up their wealth instead of using it to reach the lost, feed the hungry, cloth the naked, shelter the cold and homeless, nurse the sick and tell the world about Jesus.

### I. GOD GIVES A STRONG WARNING TO RICH PEOPLE

1. James 5:1
2. "Weep and howl" means to burst into weeping and to howl with grief if you are hoarding money because miseries are coming upon you:
  - afflictions, emptiness, loneliness, purposelessness, mental, insecurity, passion of the world, in eternity, in judgment, and in hell.
3. Hoarded riches will not satisfy but only doom and will bring all kinds of miseries.

### II. WEALTH IS NOT LASTING

1. James 5:2-3
2. There are riches that will eventually rot away if not used: food, buildings, even money.
3. There are riches that will be destroyed by insects if not used: cloth, paper money, etc.
4. There are riches that will rust and corrode if not used: minerals, metals, chemical.
5. If wealth of any kind is hoarded and not used, it is useless and will eventually be gone:
  - never to be used for the good that it could do.
  - never contribute anything to ease the needs of mankind.
6. Wealth: riches, material and physical things, do not last.
  - Job 20:28; Psalm 49:10; Proverbs 23:5; 27:24; 1 Timothy 6:7

### III. HOARDING, NOT USING WEALTH, CONDEMNS

1. James 5:3
2. One's unused wealth will stand as a witness against that person in the day of judgment.
  - The wealth was never used to meet the desperate needs of the world.
  - The unused wealth proved that the owner never cared about the needy.
  - There never was enough concern for God's Word to cause a change of mind and fulfill the duty of helping the needy world.
  - The poor can do only so much to the wealthy, but Almighty God, before whom the selfish rich shall stand, can destroy both body and soul.

3. Those who hoard wealth desire more and more and the passion for more will consume.
  - Matthew 27:5; 1 Timothy 6:9-10; Jeremiah 17:11
4. Wealth of the selfish is stored up against them in the coming judgment day.
  - As the selfish rich hoard their wealth, a world of needy people die from hunger, etc.
  - Matthew 6:19-20; 16:27; 1 Timothy 6:9; Jude 14-16; Revelation 22:12; Jeremiah 17:10

#### **IV. SELFISH RICH ARE RICH AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS**

1. James 5:4-6
2. Some have become rich by cheating, stealing, and defrauding their workers.
  - unfair wages, with holding pay unjustly, not paying as agreed, adding to the bill, unjust measuring and counting.
  - lying (Proverbs 21:6), oppressing (Proverbs 22:16), stealing (Jeremiah 17:11), deceit, (Jeremiah 22:13),
  - over charging (Isaiah 10:2; Ezekiel 22:12; Amos 5:11; Luke 3:13; Deuteronomy 24:14-15)
3. Selfish rich seek to impress others as being successful and powerful, better than others.
  - Proverbs 21:17; Isaiah 47:8-9; Luke 12:19; Matthew 24:38-39; Amos 6:1, 4
4. Some of the selfish rich condemn and even kill those who speak of self-denial and giving to help the poor and needy even though there is no resistance or retaliation by those who practice and teach sacrificial giving.
  - Matthew 5:11; 10:17-18; John 15:18-20

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. God and His Word do not condemn the wealthy. God even blesses some with wealth.
2. God condemns the SELFISH wealthy, those who refuse to share their wealth with the needy.