

Introduction - "If I had more money, I would be more happy."

True or false?

- Exhibit A = Yesterday's Headlines
- Exhibit B = Today's Relationships

The Lie: My _____ and _____ is measured by the quality and quantity of the things I _____. _____ provide security and power, so I can be safe, personally satisfied, and rule my world.

Overview of the Passage

- Intended Audience
- Historical Background
- Structure of the Passage

The Truth

God **IS NOT** opposed to wealth. Many of the greatest believers in the Bible were wealthy; but God **IS** opposed to the misuse and abuse of wealth.

Warning! Misused Wealth Brings God's Judgment!

"Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you."

James 5:1 (NIV)

The Wrong Uses of Wealth - 4 Warnings!

1. Don't _____!

²"Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³Your 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."

James 5:2-3 (NIV)

2. Don't _____!

"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."

James 5:4 (NIV)

3. Don't _____ !

"You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter."

James 5:5 (NIV)

4. Don't _____ !

"You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you."

James 5:6 (NIV)

The Right Uses of Wealth - 4 Commands!

1. _____ it faithfully!

"The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets."

Proverbs 21:20 (TLB)

2. _____ it honestly!

"Work brings profit; talk brings poverty!" (Proverbs 14:23 TLB)

"Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need."

Ephesians 4:28 (NASB)

3. _____ it wisely!

¹⁷“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.”

1 Timothy 6:17-18 (NIV)

4. _____ it generously!

²⁴“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. ²⁵A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)

“It is more blessed to give than to receive”

-Jesus Christ, Acts 20:35 (NIV)

Discussion Questions

1. Why is money such a “hot button” in our relationships? What does money reveal about our inner attitudes and values?
2. How is “The Lie” sold to us daily? What are some general evidences that most of us buy much of “The Lie?”
3. How will putting our finances in order ultimately put our relationships in order also?
4. What specific step do you need to take to get your finances and/or attitudes about them aligned with God’s Word?