

ECCLESIASTES

FINDING MEANING IN THIS LIFE

Message Title: **Dark Side of Riches, Bright Side of Living**

Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12 NASB | Sunday AM, November 7th, 2021

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⁸If you see oppression of the poor and denial of justice and righteousness in the province, do not be shocked at the sight; for one official watches over another official, and there are higher officials over them. ⁹After all, a king who cultivates the field is an advantage to the land. ¹⁰He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance *with its* income. This too is vanity. ¹¹When good things increase, those who consume them increase. So what is the advantage to their owners except to look on? ¹²The sleep of the working man is pleasant, whether he eats little or much; but the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep. ¹³There is a grievous evil *which* I have seen under the sun: riches being hoarded by their owner to his hurt. ¹⁴When those riches were lost through a bad investment and he had fathered a son, then there was nothing to support him. ¹⁵As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand. ¹⁶This also is a grievous evil—exactly as a man ^(he)is born, thus will he die. So what is the advantage to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷Throughout his life *he* also eats in darkness with great vexation, sickness and anger. ¹⁸Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in

all one's labor in which he toils under the sun *during* the few ^[a]years of his life which God has given him; for this is his ^[a]reward. ¹⁹Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also empowered him to eat from them and to receive his ^[a]reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God. ²⁰For he will not often ^[a]consider the ^[a]years of his life, because God keeps ^[a]him occupied with the gladness of his heart. **6** There is an evil which I have seen under the sun and it is prevalent among men— ²a man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor so that his soul lacks nothing of all that he desires; yet God has not empowered him to eat from them, for a foreigner enjoys them. This is vanity and a severe affliction. ³If a man fathers a hundred *children* and lives many years, however many they be, but his soul is not satisfied with good things and he does not even have a *proper* burial, *then* I say, "Better the miscarriage than he, ⁴for it comes in futility and goes into obscurity; and its name is covered in obscurity. ⁵It never sees the sun and it never knows *anything*; it is better off than he. ⁶Even if the *other* man lives a thousand years twice and does not enjoy good things—do not all go to one place?" ⁷All a man's labor is for his mouth and yet the ^[aa]appetite is not satisfied. ⁸For what advantage does the wise man have over the fool? What *advantage* does the poor man have, knowing *how* to walk before the living? ⁹What the eyes see is better than what the soul desires. This too is futility and a striving after wind. ¹⁰Whatever exists has already been named, and it is known what man is; for he cannot dispute with him who is stronger than he is. ¹¹For there are many words which increase futility. What *then* is the advantage to a man? ¹²For who knows what is good for a man during *his* lifetime, *during* the few years of his

futile life? He will spend them like a shadow. For who can tell a man what will be after him under the sun?

Introduction

1. The _____ of Loving Money (5:8-17)

A. Money _____ (5:8-9)

B. Money _____ (5:10-17)

1. It Creates an _____ Hunger (v.11)

2. The More You Make the More You _____ (v.12)

3. It Provides No _____ (v.12)

4. It Leads to _____ not Generosity (v.13)

5. It _____ as Quickly as it Came (v.14)

6. There is no _____ Behind Your Hearse (vv.15-16)

7. It Leads to _____ not Joy (v.17)

**2. The _____ of Enjoying Life/Money
(5:18-6:12)**

A. _____ is a Gift from God

B. _____ to Enjoy is a Gift from God

Application Questions

- 1. Why do we think being wealthy applies only to the people in tax brackets higher than ours?*
- 2. Solomon warns both the lazy man and the workaholic. How can we strike a balance in our lives?*
- 3. What are some things in your life you thought would make you happy if you got them, but the happiness didn't last long?*
- 4. In what ways does contemplating death help you view money and possessions more biblically?*
- 5. Money can be a positive in the Bible. What are the ways we can view and use money rightly?*

BE A DOER. Your responsibility, by God's enabling, is to consistently apply the divine principles and truths you have heard (Phil 2:12-13; 1 Tim 4:7-9; James 1:22-27). As you meditate on this message, ask yourself these questions: (1) How does God want my beliefs/actions to change? (2) How can I accomplish this change? (3) What is the first step toward bringing about this change?