

INTRODUCTION

- * Last week, we began our study of Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 by remembering Jesus admonition to the Pharisees that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. We prove what is in our hearts by what we say and what we do. Jesus also declared earlier that another indicator of the motivations of our heart is our attitude toward wealth. In Matthew 6:19-21 we read: ¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- * In the United States, wealth has become the focal point of "the American Dream." As we in the rest of this chapter, Solomon's flawed fatalistic philosophical outlook is now focused upon the futility of "wealth" as he begins to meditate on the fact that he can't take it with him!
- * The Scriptures have a lot to say regarding our attitude, acquisition and administration of wealth, and finances specifically. Today, Lord willing, we will briefly consider what the Scriptures have to say regarding our Pursuit of Money and our Use of Money.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE "EVILS" OF SOLOMON

- A. **There is no satisfaction with wealth (v. 10)**
- B. **There is no rest with wealth (v. 12)**
- C. **There is no guarantee with wealth (v. 13-14; cf. Job 1)**
- D. **There is no permanence with wealth (v. 5:15- 6:2)**

II. THE EXHORTATIONS OF SCRIPTURE

A. Regarding Our Pursuit of Money ...

1. THE LOVE OF MONEY _____

- * cf. Proverbs 23:4-5; Proverbs 28:20; Proverbs 28:22; Luke 12:15-21

2. THE LOVE OF MONEY _____

- * cf. 1 Timothy 6:6-10; Titus 1:10-11; Matthew 15:3-6; 23:13-14; Proverbs 1:19

B. Regarding Our Use of Money

1. IT IS A T _____ OF OUR FAITHFULNESS TO GOD

- * Luke 16:10-13; Luke 19:12-26; Matthew 19:21-26

2. IT IS A T _____ FOR OUR SERVICE TO GOD

- * cf. 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Proverbs 22:9; Proverbs 3:27-29; Proverbs 11:24-26

INTROSPECTION

- * Whose view of wealth do you have: Solomon's or Scriptures?
- * Is the wealth that you have a tool with which to honor God?
- * Are you living a life of contentment, or covetousness?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Read Revelation 3:14-22. How do the words of Jesus to the church of Laodicea apply to this discussion?
- * Read Luke 6:20-26. How should we understand these words of Jesus? Is there a condemnation of the wealth?