

**A TIME TO GROW UP**  
*"The Corruption of Wealth"*  
**James 5:1-6**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**1. DEFINITION of WORLDLINESS!!**

a) *"Is to exclude God from our thoughts and attitudes in every area of life."*

2. **BIG QUESTION:** What would cause us who claim to know Christ, to plan our lives as if God doesn't exist?

**3. ANSWER:** Materialism

a) Materialism is the **WORSHIP** of material things.

4. The Believer who is **GROWING UP IN CHRIST** is the believer who has learned to defeat the problem of materialism.

**5. God has a lot to say about MONEY.**

a) Jesus told 38 parables in the N.T.

1) 16 of them deal with **MONEY**.

b) One out of every 10 N.T. verses mentions possessions.

c) The Bible contains over 500 verses on **PRAYER** and another 500 verses on **FAITH**.

d) **BUT** there are over 2000 verses in the **BIBLE** on **MONEY**.

**6. James 1:10-11**

**HOW TO GET A HANDLE ON MATERIALISM**

**I. A WRONG ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY**

**A. IT'S A SINFUL ATTITUDE**

1. **Very Important** - When the Bible speaks against the **SIN** of **MATERIALISM**.

a) It's not talking about how much you have!!

b) **BUT** your **ATTITUDE** toward what you have.

2. **GOD'S CONCERN** is your **ATTITUDE** toward what you **HAVE**.

3. *Proverbs 10:22*

4. *Deuteronomy 8:18*

5. A **MATERIALIST** is someone who makes **GOLD** into a **GOD**.

6. The Bible refers to **MATERIALISM** as **COVETOUSNESS**.

a) **1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:9-10**

1) "**greed**" - gk covetousness

7. "**How do you know if you are a MATERIALIST?**"

a) **TEST #1** - Are you content with what you have? Or do you always desire something more?

b) **TEST #2** - When **GOD** and **GOLD** come into **CONFLICT**...Who **WINS**?

## **B. A LOSS OF PERSPECTIVE**

1. **Proverbs 11:28**

2. **Mark 10:25**

3. Anyone who has money and is miserable has a spiritual **PROBLEM**.

## **II. THE PRICE OF MATERIALISM**

### **A. MISERY IS COMING**

1. **Vs 1**

2. Notice the language of the **FOOLISHNESS** of **HOARDING**.

a) **Vs 2**

1) "**Your riches have rotted**"

2) "**and your garments are moth-eaten**"

a. Clothes could have been given to the less fortunate.

b) **Vs 3**

1) "**Your gold and silver have corroded**"

a. Money could have purchased help and healing for those in need.

3. **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

4. **Romans 14:10-12**

5. **2 Corinthians 5:6-10**

6. **2 Corinthians 13:5**

7. **Vs 3**

a) ***"and their corrosion"***

1) "corrosion" - poison - of their greed

b) ***"will be evidence against you"***

1) No doubt James has a future Judgment in mind.

c) ***"and will eat your flesh like fire"***

1) Just like corrosion eats up metal, it will eat at those who hoard their abundance.

d) ***"You have laid up treasures in the last days"***

## **B. THE FUTILITY OF MATERIALISM**

1. **WOW!!!** When you substitute **GOLD** for **GOD**, you will **NEVER** get the **BENEFIT** you were **EXPECTING**.

2. **Vs 3**

a) **MONEY** can buy you **BED**, but it can't **BUY YOU SLEEP**.

b) **MONEY** can buy you **BOOKS**, but it can't **BUY YOU BRAINS**.

c) **MONEY** can buy you a **HOUSE**, but it can't **BUY YOU A HOME**.

d) **MONEY** can buy you **MEDICINE**, but it can't **BUY YOU HEALTH**.

3. When you love your **STUFF** so much that you **ONLY** tip God a few **BUCKS** and **NEGLECT** the **WORK** of **GOD**...You are a **MATERIALIST**.

4. **Vs 3**

a) ***"will be evidence against you"***

## **C. THE DEVASTATING COST OF MATERIALISM**

1. **FOR THE UNBELIEVER**

a) **Luke 18:18-27**

b) **Luke 16:19-31** (Vs 19)(Vs 25)

2. Negligence cost the **RICH MAN ETERNITY** with God.

3. **LISTEN UP:** As with any sin, a **TRUE BELIEVER** will experience **CONVICTION**.

4. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

## **III. WHAT MATERIALISM LOOKS LIKE**

### **A. HOARDING STUFF**

1. **Vs 3**

a) "you have laid up treasure"

## 2. *2 Corinthians 12:14*

### 3. **BIBLICAL REASONS FOR SAVING**

- a) To invest in God's **WORK**.
- b) To provide for your **NEEDS**.
- c) To provide for your families **FUTURE**.
- d) For an **EMERGENCY**.
- e) **TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OTHERS**

### 4. **WHAT HOARDING LOOKS LIKE:**

- a) Collects and stores out of **GREED**.
- b) Accumulates more for **SELF** with **NO REGARD** for **OTHERS**.

## B. USING OTHERS

### 1. Vs 4a

2. Cheating people what is due them.

### 3. Vs 4b

a) "*the Lord of Hosts*"

## C. TWISTING JUSTICE

### 1. Vs 6

## D. SELF-INDULGENCE

### 1. Vs 5

### 2. **Luxury is not a sin!!!**

a) Stealing from God to get it is!!

3. "*Self indulgence*" - excess, more than enough but can't get enough.

## CONCLUSION: THE CURE

### 1. *Matthew 6:19-21*

a) Sending it ahead.