

Ecclesiastes

LEARNING TO LIVE LIFE
AS A GIFT NOT GAIN

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CHAPTER 5:10 -- 6:9

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**A Selfish Heart Will Not Enjoy God's
Gift Of Wealth**

**A. God's Gifts Of Wealth And Possessions
Do Not Satisfy—They Were Never
Intended To Shape Our Lives
Ecclesiastes 5:10-12**

➤ Ecclesiastes 5:10–12

He who loves silver **will not be satisfied** with silver;
Nor **he who loves** abundance, with increase. This
also *is* vanity (a frustrating puzzlement).

¹¹ When goods increase, They increase who eat them;
So ***what profit*** have the owners except to see *them*
with their eyes?

¹² **The sleep of a laboring man *is* sweet**, Whether he
eats little or much; **But the abundance of the rich
will not permit him to sleep.**

➤ Ecclesiastes 5:10-12

¹⁰ Whoever **loves money never has enough** money; whoever **loves wealth never has enough** income. This too is frustratingly (puzzling) enigmatic.

¹¹ When goods increase, those who consume them increase. So **what benefit** has their owners, except **something to look at**.

¹² **The sleep of the laborer is pleasant**, whether he eats little or much. But the abundance of the wealthy man does not allow him to sleep.

- **John 17:9** “**I pray for them.** I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.
- **John 17:13** But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, **that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.**

➤ John 17:15

I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but **that You should keep them from the evil one.**

➤ John 17:17–18

¹⁷ **Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, **I also have sent them into the world.**

**B. God's Gift Of Wealth And Possessions Are Both Uncertain
And Temporal – You Are Not.
Ecclesiastes 5:13-17**

➤ Ecclesiastes 5:13–15

¹³ There is a **severe evil** *which* I have seen under the sun:
Riches kept for their owner to his hurt.

¹⁴ But those **riches perish through misfortune**; When he
begets a son, *there is* nothing in his hand.

¹⁵ **As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he
return, to go as he came**; And he shall **take nothing from
his labor** which he may carry away in his hand.

➤ **Ecclesiastes 5:16-17**

¹⁶ And this also *is* **a severe evil— Just exactly as he came, so shall he go.**
And what profit has he who has **labored for the wind?**

¹⁷ All his days he also eats in darkness,
And *he has* much sorrow and sickness
and anger.

➤ Dr. McCabe's translation

¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb, so he will again return naked. **He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry with him.**

¹⁶ This also is a grievous misfortune: **as he came, so shall he go.** What did he profit from toiling for wind.

➤ Dr. McCabe's translation

¹⁷ Besides, he ate in darkness all his life; **he suffered greatly with sickness and frustration.**

➤ 1 Timothy 6:17–19

¹⁷ Command those who are **rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches** but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

¹⁸ **Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,**

¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

➤ **First Implication**: There are people who are rich in this present world who are not truly rich.

➤ **Luke 12:15-21**

¹⁵ And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for **one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.**”

²⁰ But God said to him, ‘**Fool!** This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided.

➤ **Second Implication**: There are people who are not rich in this present world who are truly rich.

➤ **2 Corinthians 8:9**

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, **that you through His poverty might become rich.**

➤ Proverbs 3:13–15

¹³ Happy (Blessed) *is* the man **who finds wisdom**, and the man *who* gains understanding;

¹⁴ For her proceeds *are* **better than** the profits of **silver**, and her gain **than fine gold**.

¹⁵ She *is* more precious **than rubies**, and **all the things you may desire cannot compare with her**.

➤ 1 Timothy 6:17

Command those who are **rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches** but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

1. Uncertain RICHES make us ARROGANT - The Danger of Conceit.
2. Uncertain RICHES cause us to REJECT/NEGLECT our relationship with God – The Danger of Misplaced Hope.

**C. How Can We Rightly Enjoy God's Good
Gift Of Wealth And Possessions?
Ecclesiastes 5:18-20**

➤ Ecclesiastes 5:18–20

¹⁸ Here is what I have seen: ***It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor*** in which he toils under the sun **all the days of his life which God gives him**; for it *is* his heritage.

¹⁹ As for every man to whom **God has given riches and wealth, and given him power** to eat of it, to receive his heritage and **rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God.**

²⁰ For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because **God keeps *him* busy with the joy of his heart.**

➤ **Ephesians 2:8–10**

⁸ For **by grace** you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; ***it is the gift of God***,

⁹ **not of works**, lest anyone should boast.

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

➤ **Matthew 11:28**

Come to Me, **all you who labor and are heavy laden**, and I will give you rest.

➤ 1 Timothy 6:18–19

Let them **do good**, that they be rich in good works, **ready to give, willing to share,**

¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

1. **General Principle - God has given us wealth so that you can Do Good with it!**
2. **General Principle – God has given us wealth so we can be GENEROUS and WILLING to SHARE!**

➤ **Hebrews 13:14–16**

¹⁴ For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.

¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually **offer the sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, **giving thanks** to His name.

¹⁶ But **do not forget to do good and to share**, for with **such sacrifices God is well pleased**.

➤ 2 Corinthians 8:3–5

³ For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing,

⁴ imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

⁵ And not *only* as we had hoped, but **they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.**

**D. A Profound Warning To All Who Reject Solomon's
Wise Counsel**

Ecclesiastes 6:1-9

➤ **Ecclesiastes 6:1–2**

¹ There is **another misfortune** that I have observed under the sun, and it weighs heavily on men:

² there is a man to whom **God gives wealth, possessions, and honor** so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires; however, **God does not enable him to enjoy them**, but a stranger enjoys them – this is **a frustrating (puzzling) enigma, a grievous tragedy**.

➤ Ecclesiastes 6:3–6

³ If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years – however many are the days of his years – and **he cannot enjoy the good fortune** and he does not receive a proper burial, then, I say, **a stillborn child is better off than he,**

⁴ though the stillborn child is born inexplicably and it departs mysteriously, and its name is covered in obscurity.

⁵ Though it never saw the sun or knew anything, it has more rest than that man.

⁶ Even if someone **should live a thousand years twice,** **yet he does not enjoy his good fortune** – do not all go to the same place.

➤ Ecclesiastes 6:7-9

⁷ All of a man's toil is for his mouth, yet **his appetite is never satisfied.**

⁸ Indeed, what advantage has the wise man over the fool? What advantage does the poor man by knowing how to behave properly?

⁹ **Better is the sight of the eyes than the roving of the appetite.** This too is frustratingly (puzzling) enigmatic, and a chasing after wind.