

The Problem with Money Part I

James 5: 1-6

5 May 2019

Series: Practical Christianity

James 5: 1-6

¹ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! ⁴ Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, *and* which has been withheld by you, *cries out against you*; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and put to death the righteous *man; he does not resist you.*

Riches and Ungodliness V. 1.

- Who is James writing to?
- The problem is that we are convinced that money will give us happiness and fulfillment.
- James instructions could cause you to desire destitution and poverty.

Wealth That is Uselessly Hoarded

Vv. 2-3

- Your riches have rotted. V. 2a.
- Your rich garments are moth feeders. V. 2b.
- Your gold and silver is rusting away. V. 3a.
- Hoarded wealth will stand as a witness against you in God's court. V. 3b.

How Believers Should use their Wealth.

- To win the lost (Luke 16: 9).
- Care for those in need (Galatians 2: 10; 1 John 3: 16-18).
- Support those in ministry (1 Corinthians 9: 4-14; Galatians 6:6).
- Provide for your family (1 Timothy 5:8).

Conclusion

- We are the most prosperous generation America has ever seen, but we think of ourselves as poor.
- Our wealth comes with responsibility to use it wisely, not to be wasteful, and to help others.