



“The Dark Side of Money”

Part 2

Ecc1. 5:15-20

June 7, 2020

1. The more we have, the more we oppress. (5:8,9)
2. The more we have, the more we want (5:10).
3. The more we have, the more we spend (5:11).
4. The more we have, the more we worry (5:12).
5. The more we have, the more we hoard (5:13, 14).

Ecc1 5:8-20

8 If 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.

9 After all, a king who cultivates the field is an advantage to the land.

10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity.

11 When good things increase, those who consume them increase. So what is the advantage to their owners except to look on?

12 The 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.

13 There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches being hoarded by their owner to his hurt.

14 When those riches were lost through a bad investment and he had fathered a son, then there was nothing to support him.

15 As 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.

16 This also is a grievous evil — exactly as a man is born, thus will he die. So what is the advantage to him who toils for the wind?

17 Throughout his life he also eats in darkness with great vexation, sickness and anger.

18 Here 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 years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.

19 Furthermore, 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 reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.

20 For he will not often consider the years of his life, because God keeps him occupied with the gladness of his heart.

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6. The more we have, the more we leave behind (5:15-16).

“As he had come naked from his mother's womb,

- Man brings “0”, nothing, zip, nada with him when he is born.



15 *As 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.*

16 *This also is a grievous evil — exactly as a man is born, thus will he die. So what is the advantage to him who toils for the wind?*

6. The more we have, the more we leave behind (5:15-16).

- Man brings “0”, nothing, zip, nada with him when he is born.
- He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand.
- You spent all your life earning and earning so that you had an abundance, and then you die and you can’t take any of that with you.
- What’s the Point?
- Solomon says this is a “grievous” (depressing) evil
- Death separates and seals you off from all you accumulated in your life. All your money. All your material possessions.
- Think about it: Death is the great equalizer. The rich man dies just like the poor man. The funerals may be a little different but the one is just as dead as the other. The rich man can’t take his riches with him, nor will the poor man take his poverty.

- So wealth is problematic in that it's hard to earn; harder to keep in this life: And absolutely impossible to keep in death.
- Every year, *Forbes* magazine publishes a special report on the top-earning dead celebrities. The top five in recent years were Elvis, John Lennon, Charles Schulz, George Harrison, and Albert Einstein.
- For the believer, by giving to the Lord’s work and being a blessing to others, your money can outlive you and count for eternity.



Prov 23:4-5

4 Do not weary yourself to gain wealth,
Cease from your consideration of it.

5 When you set your eyes on it, it is gone.
For wealth certainly makes itself wings
Like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.



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7. The more we have, the greater the darkness. (5:17)

- The guy ends up living in darkness. So sad.
- That is no way to live – oppressing the poor, wanting more, spending more, worrying more, hoarding more, and leaving it all behind.
- Money can't console you in loneliness, illness, or hardship.
- But when you “follow the yellow brick road”, with the love for money in your heart, this is where it leads – a life of darkness.
- Darkness defined:
 - **“great vexation”** - כָּעַס - kahas – annoyance, frustration, indignation. Refers to the weight of burdens and cares of this life.
 - **“sickness”** - קָהֵל - kohlee - afflicted, diseased, anxiety, depression. Indicates the physical toll a love for money has on someone.
 - **“anger”** - קִצְרִי - qetseph – rage, being provoked, outburst. The emotional outcome from the frustration that comes from not being satisfied with money, and/or being the target of other ambitious people, and/or the failure of one's plans to come to fruition.

“Money will buy a bed but not sleep; books but not brains; food but not appetite; finery but not beauty; a house but not a home; medicine but not health; luxuries but not culture; amusement but not happiness.”

- Anon.

“Millionaires seldom smile.”

- Andrew Carnegie

Prov 30:8-9

8 Keep deception and lies far from me,

Give me neither poverty nor riches;

Feed me with the food that is my portion,

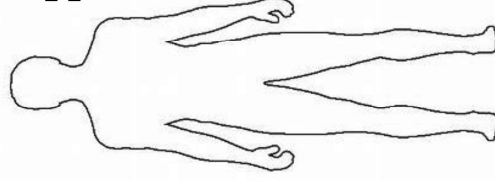
9 That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the Lord?"

Or that I not be in want and steal,

And profane the name of my God.

DYSFUNCTIONAL

Man is trying to find happiness, satisfaction, and fulfillment in money. It leads him on a path to darkness.



1. The more we have, the more we oppress.
2. The more we have, the more we want.
3. The more we have, the more we spend.
4. The more we have, the more we worry.
5. The more we have, the more we hoard.
6. The more we have, the more we leave behind.
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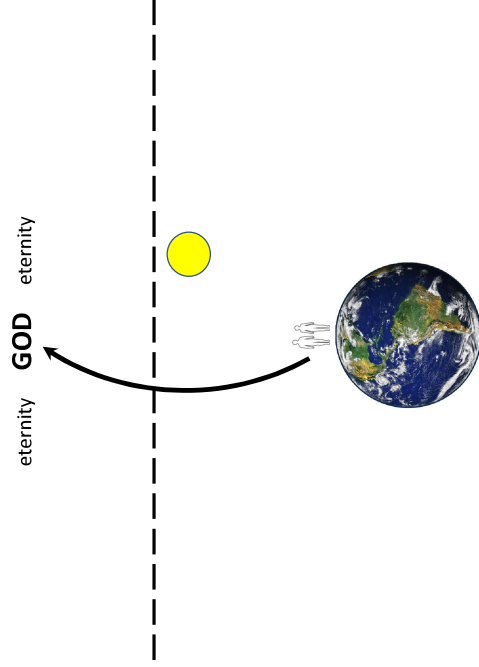
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18 Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one's labor in which he toils under the sun during the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.

19 Furthermore, 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 reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.

20 For he will not often consider the years of his life, because God keeps him occupied with the gladness of his heart.



“during the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.”

- **“reward”** - תְּלֶקֶת - cheleq – allotment, portion, lot.
- God is the one who gives man: 1. the ability to enjoy life. 2. The number of years for him to enjoy life. 3. His lot in life.

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How To Enjoy Life

“God” is used 4 times in these 3 verses.

- Solomon speaks here to 2 groups of people:

#1 – the average Joe.

“Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting.”

- It is good and fitting to enjoy life as it comes to you from the hand of God. The word good means “beneficial.” So enjoying life is both appropriate and beneficial. Unbelievers don’t see enjoyment in the Christian life.
- Enjoyment of life is actually the exclusive benefit of Christians.

John 10:10

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

“to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one's labor in which he toils under the sun”

- Eating and drinking are times of joy and relaxation. They are times you can sit back and relax and have fellowship with others.
- Look at Adam and Eve. Look at the Millennium.
- This is the man who recognizes that enjoyment comes exclusively from God.

- God is the one who has given you your job.

- God is also the one who causes you to be productive at your job. You say, but I did the work.

- Did you make your hands?
- Did you make your brain?
- Did you make your voice?
- Did you make your mouth
- Or did you give yourself the talents and abilities you have?
- These are all gifts from God.

- So when you wake up in the morning, you need to thank the Lord for a beating heart and for the blood pumping through your veins. You need to thank Him for your job and for the strength He has given you to work your job whether your employed, a housewife, mother, retired.

- The words “enjoy oneself” means “find and enjoy”. In other words look for it. The implication is that you have to actually search for some good thing(s) that came out of your labor for that day.

Application:

- The average Joe can have a rich and full life.
- You will enjoy life when you are thankful and see it all as a gift from God.

That is how you enjoy life.

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#2 – The average Joe with above average income.

- Notice it is God who gives riches and wealth. It is a sovereign act to accomplish His purposes. Not based on the qualities of the receiver.
- God gives the ability:
 - To eat.
 - To receive his lot in life.
 - To rejoice in his labor.
- Example of Job and his ability to handle wealth.

Job 1:21

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
And naked I shall return there.
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.
Blessed be the name of the Lord."

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 - To receive his lot in life.
 - To rejoice in his labor.
- Example of Job and his ability to handle wealth.
- It is all a gift of God and to be received with thanksgiving.
- These will enjoy life when they are thankful and see it all as a gift from God.
- Different people but same result.
- The average Joe with above average income can have a rich and full life.

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- Here is a person who knows how to enjoy life. In fact he doesn't notice the years rolling by.
- He is so captivated by what is happening today, by the things God is bringing into his life.
- He is the one saying, "my how time flies when you're having fun."
- He arises in the morning and he looks forward to what God will bring into his life today. He is thankful for the sunshine or the rain or the snow or the cold. It doesn't matter because his heart is glad. He is in Christ and Christ is in him and that's all that matters.

Ps 103:2

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;

Matt 6:11

1 'Give us this day our daily bread.

Ps 23:1-3

1 The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.

2 **He** makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside quiet waters.

3 **He** restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

- He's not looking at the glory days of the past. He is looking at the plan of God today and what God is doing with his life today. He's just enjoying each day as it comes.
- Each day is a gift of God. Do you say that when you sit on the edge of your bed each morning and each night? It's your choice, you know.

Ps 118:24

24 This is the day which the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

It's not so much that "money can't buy you happiness," but rather, "you don't need money to be happy,"

- Let's go to the Roman prison and let's have Paul tell us how he views his situation. Let's let him tell us what he does about money, and life and his circumstances. And as we walk into his cell, there is the old man sitting there, in the shadows of the prison with the sewer system of the city flowing just a hundred yards away, and so we ask him some questions –

Paul, how do you cope with this filthy, rotten situation?

Paul: "for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Phil 4:11-13

Paul, I bet you spend your time looking back on the good old days, right?

Paul: " forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,"

Phil 3:13

So Paul, how do you make it through each day?

Paul: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Phil 4:4-6,7

Under the Sun

Dysfunctional - not following the original design.

Source of Satisfaction: Money

Love money.

Greedy.

Hoarders.

Live for this life.

Send it to the bank.

Worried and anxious.

Live in darkness.

Enjoyment in life depends on accumulation.

Above the Sun

Functional – following the original design.

Source of Satisfaction: Christ

Love God.

Giving.

Givers.

Live for eternity.

Send it on ahead.

Content and satisfied.

Live in light.

Enjoyment in life depends on connection.