
*He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income, this is vanity.
(Ecclesiastes 5:10)*

I. Don't Make Money Your God (v.10-11)

- a. The implication is that people who have set acquiring money as their highest goal in life have a never-ending task. They will never reach their goal, therefore, their life is "meaningless (vanity)."
- b. The person who loves money cannot be satisfied no matter how much is in the bank, because the human heart was made to be satisfied only by God.
- c. What would you rather have: a modest meal eaten with a loving family or filet mignon eaten alone? Do you want a million dollar home with million dollar headaches or a simple home filled with peace and joy?
- d. Our hearts will sometimes lead us to think that to be truly happy we need more than we have right now. The pull for more is stronger than you think. Read 1 Tim 6:10 and Proverbs 15:16-17.
 1. Money attracts leeches (*friends, family, taxes*). ...*they increase who eat them.* (v.11)
 2. You will not sleep well. ...*the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.* (v.12)
 3. Wealth does not provide security and does not safeguard health (vv.13-17) (Luke 12:13-21)
- e. The rich young ruler thought he was safe for years to come, but that night he died.
- f. Jesus teaches that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- g. Human beings depart life as they enter it—naked and helpless.

II. Finding Contentment

- a. The key factor to all of this is God. We can only enjoy material blessing as we are dependent on God. Riches and things are not the "ultimate" God is. (Deut 8:18; Pro. 10:22; 13:22; 28:8; Heb 13:5)
- b. God is sovereign. Therefore, He allots things to us and the ability or inability to enjoy what He has given to us. The issue is not how much you have; the issue is the heart.
- c. True contentment will find itself demonstrated in four heart attitudes:
- d. A heart that is at peace in Christ will anchor us to God in times of abundance and lack.
- e. A heart full of grace recognizes that the smallest of pleasures come from God. Be thankful for simple things and look for ways to meet the needs of others. Grace is both, received and given.
- f. A heart ready to submit anytime and anywhere pleases God. Grow to a place where God could ask anything of you, and regardless of how difficult it may be, it becomes a joy to you.
- g. A heart overflowing with worship will embrace sincere worship. As with Joseph, when we learn that life is not always kind to us, but God meant it for our own good, we will have hearts that overflow in worship in all places and at all times.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. It is good to have the things money can buy, provided you don't lose the things money can't buy.
- b. The world is filled with unhappy people. Everyone has an opinion, often it is discontented.
- c. Discontentment comes from a lack of faith in God's goodness. How do we get more contentment in our lives and be more satisfied?
 1. Lord, help me to see that contentment is a gift from You. (Phil 4:11)
 2. Lord, help me to practice the discipline of self-denial. Give up a meal and provide a meal to the poor.
 3. Lord, continue to remind me that all of my hope and help is in You. We must all learn to stop asking more of this life and asking God for more of His life.
- d. Do what the Word asks. Live in hope. Learn to release. (The illustration of the water tank)