

The Pursuit of Wealth

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (*Colossians 3:1-2*)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (*1 John 2:15-17*)

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (*James 4:1-4*)

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, [Jesus] said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? (*Mark 8:34-36*)

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

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”” (*Hebrews 13:5-6*)

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” (*Luke 16:10-13*)

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (*1 Timothy 6:6-10*)

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. (*Proverbs 22:1*)

One pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth. (*Proverbs 13:7*)

Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit gathers it for him who is generous to the poor. (*Proverbs 28:8*)

A rich man's wealth is his strong city; the poverty of the poor is their ruin. (*Proverbs 10:15*)

Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. (*Proverbs 23:4*)

Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth. (*Deuteronomy 8:17-18a*)

Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. (*Luke 12:48b*)

Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty. (*Proverbs 22:16*)

The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all. (*Isaiah 56:11*)

For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun. Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that [God] has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol [Hades], to which you are going. (*Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 and 9-10*)

Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. “Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the [temple], that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord. You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors.” (*Haggai 1:5-11*)

Everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. (*Ecclesiastes 3:13 and 22a*)

I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun. So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. (*Ecclesiastes 2:10b-11, 20-21*)

A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous. (*Proverbs 13:22*)

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. (*James 3:16*)

The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death. (*Proverbs 21:6*)

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. (*James 5:1-5*)

A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him. (*Proverbs 28:22*)

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (*Luke 12:13-15*)

Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (*Matthew 19:23-24*)

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. (*James 1:9-11*)