



### INTRODUCTION

We can look at wealth from two different vantage points. One is an ungodly, worldly view of wealth. The other is a godly, eternal view of wealth. The true believer must use his resources for the glory of God. Real faith invests in eternity.

#### THE DIFFERENCE IN \_\_\_\_\_

Nothing more clearly reveals the state of a person's heart than his view of money and material possessions (Matt. 6:21). Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The ungodly and godly view wealth from two different perspectives.

- A. The ungodly view wealth from an \_\_\_\_\_ perspective
- B. The godly view wealth from an \_\_\_\_\_ perspective

Application: Do you have a purely earthly perspective on money? If your life is primarily consumed with making money, saving money, keeping money, investing money with no thought of God's viewpoint on wealth, you are headed down a dangerous road. The godly remember that our days on earth are numbered, our ability to get wealth is from God, and our purpose of existence is to glorify God.

#### THE DIFFERENCE IN \_\_\_\_\_

There is a second difference seen in mind-set and attitude toward material things, it is a difference in philosophy. An earthly perspective on money leads to an ungodly philosophy of finances. A godly philosophy comes from an eternal perspective.

- A. The ungodly live by, "\_\_\_\_\_ all you can, by every means you can, from everyone you can".
- B. The godly live by, "\_\_\_\_\_ all you can, by every means you can, for everyone you can".

Application: What philosophy do you operate your life under? Is it a worldly or godly one? Jesus said that the Gentiles (those who are without a relationship with God) pursue and run after material things. They seek worldly wealth worrying over what they will eat, drink, wear, and tomorrow's potential problems. The godly, however, "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). In doing so, they know that "all these things" (food, clothing, future) will be "added" unto them.

#### THE DIFFERENCE IN \_\_\_\_\_

James is confronting the wrong practice of these "rich men". They were demonstrating a heart that trusted in riches instead of God. Their finances were uselessly hoarded, unjustly gained, self-indulgently spent, and ruthlessly acquired. We might expect that from someone with a purely earthly perspective and solely selfish philosophy of life, but a believer has a higher calling. There is a distinct difference in practice for one with real faith.

- A. The ungodly selfishly \_\_\_\_\_ wealth, the godly sacrificially \_\_\_\_\_ wealth (5:1-3).
- B. The ungodly deceitfully \_\_\_\_\_ others, the godly decently \_\_\_\_\_ others (5:4).
- C. The ungodly excessively \_\_\_\_\_ resources, the godly eternally \_\_\_\_\_ resources (5:5).
- D. The ungodly callously \_\_\_\_\_ the less fortunate, the godly caringly \_\_\_\_\_ the less fortunate (5:6).

### CONCLUSION

Wealth may be a blessing or curse depending on our perspective, philosophy, and practice with money. To trust in treasures is foolish, for they are uncertain. To hoard wealth is useless, for it will all be left behind. To unjustly gain wealth at the expense of others is reprehensible. To indulgently waste wealth is selfish. To ruthlessly acquire wealth is ungodly and will meet the just judgment of God. However, when we view our wealth as a gift from God and see it as an opportunity to do good, money becomes the servant not the master. It is a tool to exalt the King and expand the Kingdom. May we be more concerned with seeking to be "rich in faith" (James 2:5) and "rich toward God" (Luke 12:21) than with material things. If wealth is to be a source of blessing and not condemnation, it must not be uselessly hoarded, unjustly gained, self-indulgently spent, or ruthlessly acquired. God does not give us riches to hoard, but to use for His glory. True enjoyment of wealth comes not from possessing it, but from investing it in eternity.



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