

**Message #17****Ecclesiastes 5:13-17**

There are many ways you can get a lot of money in this world:

1. You can earn a lot of money.
2. You can steal a lot of money.
3. You can win a lot of money.
4. You can inherit a lot of money.

But there is one thing you can never get with money no matter how you get it and that is happiness. Money cannot buy you happiness or fulfillment. It does not matter how you got it or how much of it you actually have. The love of money will never make a person happy.

The man writing Ecclesiastes—Solomon—was a multi-billionaire. There was a time in his life when he got his focus “under the sun” and went after money. He started to think that great wealth could bring you great happiness, but what he discovered was a great evil.

**STRIVING FOR RICHES UNDER THE SUN WILL PROVE TO BE A GREAT EVIL THAT WILL LEAVE ONE MISERABLE IN THIS LIFE AND THE NEXT.**

There is nothing positive stated in this context about a love of money.

First, money will not satisfy, but will leave you empty. 5:10

Second, a love of money will rob you of your sleep. 5:12

Third, a love of money is a great evil that will lead to misery. **5:13, 17**

It is a shame that so many people put so much emphasis on the dollar. The prevailing philosophy is the more money you have, the more successful you are. Truth is the more money you have the more miserable you are likely to be. People who love money are oft times miserable wrecks. They cannot be happy and fulfilled because their philosophy is anti-God and anti-God’s Word!

**POINT #1** – Hoarding riches is a grievous evil that will hurt the owner. **5:13**

The Hebrew words “grievous evil” are words that mean there is an evil that will wound you and leave you sick, lacking strength and worn down and that is hoarding wealth (Gesenius, p. 279). The word “hoarded” is one that pictures hoarding something to such an extreme that one keeps, watches and preserves his wealth by guarding it to the point of putting it someplace and then mailing it shut for protection (Gesenius, pp. 837-838). The picture here is of a person who is consumed with hoarding and protecting his wealth. His money is the primary passion of his life. The person who is like this is involved, in God’s estimation, in a “grievous evil” and the ultimate result will not be happiness, but hurt.

God will not prosper a hoarder spiritually (II Cor. 9:6). A hoarder may have lots of money, but he will have no spiritual power and he will not bountifully grow. It is the giver who is enriched by God, not the hoarder (II Cor. 9:10-11).

**POINT #2** – One who loves money may lose it. **5:14a**

Grammatically, this verse is connected to the previous thought. One of the ways a person who hoards money may be hurt is that he may lose his money. If one is trying to find meaning and fulfillment in money, one may discover he ends up losing his money and when that happens, there is no meaning to life. Putting one's hope and confidence in riches is a very foolish thing, for wealth may be here one day and gone the next.

**POINT #3** – One who loses money may gain a son. **5:14b**

Obviously one thing that can happen and certainly Solomon saw it, is a man with money takes up a relationship with a woman and she bears him a son. Now the man who loses his money is in a real bind. He has a son but no money to support him. Obviously one way a person loses a family is through a devotion to money. The man who is after wealth usually sacrifices his family to get it. If one makes money his primary temporal love of life, he is making an eternal mistake.

**POINT #4** – One who loves money cannot take any of it with him. **5:15**

I want you to carefully notice something important from **verse 15**—he will not take any fruit of his labor—he will not carry any of it in his hand. When a person dies, he will carry the fruit of his labor with him to face God, but he cannot carry anything he made with his hand. In other words, he cannot take his physical money or any other possession with him; but he will take his spiritual condition, his character and his conscience.

**POINT #5** – One who loves money will die. **5:16**

One may have millions but he will still die. I cannot help but think of Psalm 49 which teaches us that material wealth means nothing on the day one dies.

That is precisely who Paul exhorted people with money to use it for God so they could have great reward in heaven (I Tim. 6:17-19).

Death is the great equalizer of all humanity—rich and poor.

**POINT #6** – One who loves money will never find happiness. **5:17**

One whose focus is on money lives a dark life. Emotionally, morally and spiritually, life is dark for one who is greedy for money.

One who is after money is anything but happy.

When we are focused above the sun, we love God, not money.

When we are focused above the sun, we work at things we can take with us.