

Judgment of the Wicked Rich, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: James 5:1-6.

B. How one feels about money and possessions is a test. (Matthew 6:21, Luke 16:11)

C. It is not wrong to possess money, but it is wrong to misuse it. (Isaiah 14; 10; Amos 4; 8:4; Micah 2:1-5; Malachi 3:1-5)

D. Lifestyle often conveys that people who claim Christianity really serve money. (Matthew 13, 1 John 2:15)

E. If one has any discretionary money, he or she is rich. James accuses those who use those resources without discretion.

F. James calls for a frantic response to overwhelming grief coming from the judgment that will result from a misuse of wealth. Judgment on the wicked wealthy is inevitable at the coming of Christ.

G. There are certain characteristics that bring about judgment on the wicked wealthy.

II. Their wealth is uselessly hoarded.

A. There are several things we should invest in.

1. God provides for our families, and we are to take care of them.

2. Our money is to be devoted to his service. (Luke 6:38)

3. Our money is to be used to win the lost. (Luke 16)

4. Our money is to be used to help the needy. (1 John 3, Galatians 2, 6)

B. Many hoarded food uselessly. It had no value because it would ultimately rot.

C. Stockpiling riches in garments will end in them being moth-eaten.

D. Money stashed for a long period of time would rust.

E. Hell is for hoarders of treasure. (1 John 2:17)

Application Questions:

1. Why do you think the Bible says so much about our use of money?

2. What things should we use our money for?

3. How can you better use your resources in light of the message? Explain.
