

Date: February 2 & 3, 2008  
Text: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20  
Topic: Money. Contentment.  
Series: none  
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Focal Point Radio Ministries

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# Money Madness

## *Finding Peace in the Storm of Materialism*



1. Beware \_\_\_\_\_ (v.10)

2. Rethink \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.11-17)



3. Aim \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.18-20)



*Ecclesiastes 5:10-20*

<sup>10</sup>Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. <sup>11</sup>As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?

<sup>12</sup>The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep.

<sup>13</sup>I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, <sup>14</sup>or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when he has a son there is nothing left for him.

<sup>15</sup>Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand. <sup>16</sup>This too is a grievous evil: As a man comes, so he departs, and what does he gain, since he toils for the wind?

<sup>17</sup>All his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger. <sup>18</sup>Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him—for this is his lot.

<sup>19</sup>Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God. <sup>20</sup>He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart. (NIV)

# Application Questions

*These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.*

1. Read **1 Timothy 6:9-10**. What are some of the "temptations" and "traps" that line the path of those who set their sights on being rich?

Compare **1 Timothy 6:10 & 6:17**. How would you distinguish between "the love of money" (v.10) and "the enjoyment" of the things God provides (v.17)?

2. Read **Exodus 20:17**. How do you know when you are coveting?

Read **Luke 12:15**. How do you do this? What practical steps can one take to "be on guard"?

3. Describe a time when you owned much less than you do now, but actually experienced the "satisfaction" and "enjoyment" that Ecclesiastes 5 spoke of.

4. Read **Matthew 6:19-21**. What counsel would you give to someone who told you he can't seem to value the "then & there" over the "here & now"?

5. Read **1 Timothy 6:18-19**. How generous do you think you are? What specific steps can you take to follow the directives in this passage?

## *Read Through the Bible in a Year*

Here's this  
week's schedule:

February 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Ex. 17-18 & Mk. 5*

February 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Ex. 19-20 & Mk. 6*

February 4<sup>th</sup>

*Ex. 21-22 & Mk. 7*

February 5<sup>th</sup>

*Ex. 23-24 & Mk. 8*

February 6<sup>th</sup>

*Ex. 25-26 & Mk. 9*

February 7<sup>th</sup>

*Ex. 27-28 & Mk. 10*

February 8<sup>th</sup>

*Ex. 29-30 & Mk. 11*

February 9<sup>th</sup>

*Ex. 31-32 & Mk. 12*

*Here is a list of other CDs available from past sermons which may assist you in your further study of today's message.*

CD # 0735 – **Contentment Instead of Materialism**

CD # 9825 – **The Sins Christians Tolerate: A Craving for Money**

CD # 0322 – **Where You're Planted: When the Grass Looks Greener**

CD # 0416 – **Money, Money, Money: A Truncated Theology of Green Paper**

CD # 0417 – **Using Money for Good: Making Sense of Offerings, Tithing & Temple Taxes**

*Here are some resources that will assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in this week's sermon.  
(To see other recommendations by Pastor Mike related to this and other topics go to [www.CompassBooks.org](http://www.CompassBooks.org).)*

Alcorn, Randy. **Money, Possessions, and Eternity**. Tyndale House, 2003.

Benton, John. **Christians in a Consumer Culture**. Christian Focus, 1999.

Blomberg, Craig L. **Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions**. InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Buford, Bob. **Halftime: Changing Your Game Plan from Success to Significance**. Zondervan, 1994.

Burroughs, Jeremiah. **The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment**. Reprint. Banner of Truth, 1981.

Getz, Gene. **Biblical Theology of Material Possessions**. Moody Press, 1991.

\_\_\_\_\_. **Real Prosperity: Biblical Principles of Material Possessions**. Moody Press, 1990.

Horn, Connie Beyer. **I Have Enough**. [Children's book: Ages 4-7.] Concordia Publishing, 1999.