

Discontent with Worldly Success

Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 6:12

I. **THE VALUE OF WORLDLY SUCCESS** ()—What makes you a success in the sight of the world?

A. **Riches** (1 Kg 3:13)

1. **Respect/Admiration** (Ps 49:18; Pr 14:20)

2. **Safety/Security** (Job 31:24; Pr 18:11)

3. **Influence/Control** (Pr 22:7)

B. **Long Life** (6:6; 1 Kg 3:14; Ps 91:16;)—time to enjoy

C. **Many Children** (6:3)

1. **Practical**

- **Labor**—need people to work the farm and home
- **Protection**—strength in numbers
- **Future Provision**—someone to take care of you in old age

2. **Prestige**

- **Virility** (manly prowess)
- **Influence** in society
- **Legacy** (memory, future influence of culture)

D. **Good Burial** (6:3b; Isa 53:9)—the last impression you make

II. **THE VANITY OF WEALTH** — It is empty; it can't do what you think

A. **It won't satisfy** (5:10)—never enough

B. **Other people take it** (5:11; Mt 6:19)—children, slaves, freeloaders

C. **It can hurt you** (5:13; Dt 8:13-14; Pr 28:20; Mk 4:19; 10:24; 1 Tim 6:9-10; Rev 3:17)

1. **More ways to die**

2. **Makes you a target**

3. **Corrupts your character**

4. **Controls you.**

D. **It can be lost** in this life (5:14; Pr 23:5; Mat 6:19)

E. **You cant' take it with you** when you die (5:15-16; Ps 49:10-12, 16-19; Lk 12:20).

F. **It causes worry** (Mt 13:22)—making it, maintaining it, protecting it

1. **Physical toll** (5:12, 17)—insomnia, indigestion

2. **Emotional toll** (5:17)—anxiety, anger, bitterness

III. **THE PROBLEM OF GREED** ()—a problem for **everyone**, not just rich

A. **A Mindset of Materialism**

B. **A Lack of Charity** (Mat 22:39)

C. **An Indication of Idolatry** (Mat 6:24, 31-32; Col 3:5; 1 Tim 6:10)

1. **Worshipping Wealth**—valuing the gift above the Giver

2. **Scorning Providence**—discontent with the provision of God

3. **Serving Self**—trying to **BE** God

IV. **THE ABILITY TO ENJOY** (5:18-20; 6:1-9; 1 Tim 6:6)—godliness with contentment

A. **Life is a gift from God.** (Ps 100:3; 139:13-16; Job 33:4)

B. **This is my portion.** (Mat 6:31-32; Ps 47:4; Lam 3:22-23; Heb 13:5-6)—God has chosen this for me

1. **My inheritance**

2. **My work**

3. **My daily bread**

C. **Gratitude produces joy.** (1 Tim 6:6-10; Js 1:17)

1. **God owes me nothing.**

2. **God gives me good things—everything I need.**

3. **God is good to me!**