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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **James 5:1** *Go to now, you rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.*
- **5:2** *Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten.*
- **5:3** *Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire.
You have heaped treasure together for the last days.
(James 5:1-3)*

- In this final chapter
James has two aims.

- **First**, to show the ultimate worthlessness of all earthly riches;

- **Second**, to show the detestable character of those who possess them.

- **A warning**
not to place our
hopes and desires
on earthly things

- *If you knew what you were doing.*
 - *You would weep and wail for the terror of the judgment that is coming upon you at the Day of the Lord.*
- Implying that these people were totally ignorant regarding life's purpose.

- The vividness of the picture is increased by the word which James uses for **“to wail”**.
 - It is a Greek word which means more than **“to wail”**.
 - It means **to shriek**.

- In the King James Version
it is translated
“*to howl*”.

- And it depicts
the frantic terror
of those on whom
the judgment of God
has come.

- All through this passage the words are vivid and carefully chosen.

- In James' times, there were three main indicators of wealth.
- James points out the temporary nature of each.
 - First, there was grain.
- You could store it in large bins or silos.
 - But James says of it (**5:2**),
“*Your riches have rotted.*”

- **Second**, there was **clothing**.

- In that day it was a sign of wealth **to have more than one change of clothes**.

(Gen. 45:22; Josh. 7:21; Judges 14:12; 2 Kings 5:5, 22).

- The apostle Paul could claim that he had **coveted no one's money or clothes**
(**Acts 20:33**).

- James echoes Jesus:

Matthew 6:19

***Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth,
where moth and rust doth corrupt,
and where thieves break through and steal:***

- Third, there were gold and silver.
- James knew that these metals are not subject to literal rust.

- But he is using irony to make a point.

- When God brings judgment what good were all the gold and silver in the world

in A.D. 70

when Titus destroyed Jerusalem

and slaughtered over a million Jews?

- In the east garments were wealth.
 - Joseph gave changes of garments to his brothers (**Genesis 45:22**).
 - It was for a Babylonian garment that brought death to Achan and his family. (**Joshua 7:21**)

- It was changes of garments that Samson promised to anyone who would solve his riddle.

(**Judges 14:12**).

- It was with 10 garments

that Naaman, the leper. brought as a gift to Elisha.

(**2 Kings 5:5**)

- It was Paul's claim that he had coveted **no man's money or apparel** (**Acts 20:33**).

- These garments, which are so splendid, **will be food for moths.**

- **Matthew 6:19**

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust corrupts, and where thieves break through and steal:

- Even their gold and silver will be rusted clean through.

- The point is that gold and silver do not actually rust:

- So James in the most vivid way is warning men:

- That even the most precious and apparently most indestructible things are doomed to be of no value.

- The idea is that all earthly things will be of no value.
- A desire for these things is like a rust eating into men's bodies and souls.

- Then comes a **grim sarcasm.**
- The only treasure he will possess **is a consuming**
fire of judgment.

- To concentrate on material things is not only to concentrate on a decaying delusion;

- It is to concentrate on a self-produced destruction.

- It is spiritual suicide.

- A casual reading of the Bible reveals God's passion for honesty.
 - No book condemns dishonest and selfish wealth with such searing passion as the Bible does.
 - This Godly passion is clearly seen in the book of "Amos".

- **How mightily Amos condemns.**

- **Amos 3:10** (GNB)

The LORD says, "These people fill their mansions with things taken by crime and violence. They don't even know how to be honest.

- **Amos 5:11** (GNB)

You have oppressed the poor and robbed them of their grain. And so you will not live in the fine stone houses you build or drink wine from the beautiful vineyards you plant.

- **The wrath of God**
will never let them enjoy
their ill-gained wealth.

- **Amos 8:4**

Listen to this, you that trample on the needy and try to destroy the poor of the country.

- **8:5** *You say to yourselves, "We can hardly wait for the holy days to be over so that we can sell our grain. When will the Sabbath end, so that we can start selling again? Then we can overcharge, use false measures, and fix the scales to cheat our customers.*
- **8:6** *We can sell worthless wheat at a high price. We'll find someone poor who can't pay his debts, not even the price of a pair of sandals, and we'll buy him as a slave."*
- **8:7** *The LORD, the God of Israel, has sworn, "I will never forget their evil deeds.*

Isaiah warns the Wicked (GNB)

- **Isa 5:8** *You are doomed! You buy more houses and fields to add to those you already have. Soon there will be no place for anyone else to live, and you alone will live in the land.*
- **Isa 5:9** *I have heard the LORD Almighty say, "All these big, fine houses will be empty ruins.*
- **Isa 5:10** *The grapevines growing on five acres of land will yield only five gallons of wine. Ten bushels of seed will produce only one bushel of grain."*
- **Isa 5:11** *You are doomed! You get up early in the morning to start drinking, and you spend long evenings getting drunk.*

- Luke quotes Jesus as saying,
"Woe to you that are rich!"
(Luke 6:24).
- Luke 18:25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
 - 18:26 And they that heard it said,
Who then can be saved?
 - 18:27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.
 - It takes nothing less than the power of God to save us from the dangers of greed and selfishness that are bound up with wealth

- **1 Timothy 6:9**

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

- **6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

Billie Sol Estes' name was synonymous with Texas-sized schemes, greed and corruption.

He reigned as the state's king of con men for nearly 50 years, even getting immortalized in songs and on Time magazine's cover.

A Ponzi schemer before Bernard Madoff.

TRUE CRIME

Billie Sol Estes Has a Deal for You

Free of the law for the first time in three decades, Texas' most famous con man still dreams of getting rich.



- In James 5:4

he is denouncing wealthy landowners

that were cheating their laborers
out of their hard-earned wages.

- So how does that apply to us?

- It was a common enough problem to be mentioned several times in the Bible.

- Leviticus 19:13 states,

“You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of a hired man are not to remain with you all night until morning.”

(Deut. 24:14-15; Jer. 22:13; Mal. 3:5.)

- There is no book which speaks so explosively of social injustice as the Bible.

- It does not condemn wealth as such

- But there is no book which insists on wealth's responsibility

- And the dangers which surround this world's goods.

- Anyone who chooses this pathway **has also chosen its end.**
- **Like fattened cattle** they will be slaughtered.
- As they have sought a life of **luxury** and **licentiousness.**

- Fattening themselves
for the day of judgment.

- The end of
their pleasure
is grief

- And the goal of
their luxury
is death.

Ephesians 4:17

*“walk not as other Gentiles walk,
in the vanity of their mind,*

- 4:18 *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*
- 4:19 *Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

- **James 5:6**

*You have condemned
and killed the just;
and he doth not resist you.*

- **Remember the words of James:**

James 4:2

*You desire
and you do not have;
you murder and envy...*

- **They oppressed**
and acted very unjustly,
to get estates;
- When they had them,
they gave way to
luxury and **sensuality**,
- Having lost all feelings of
the needs of others;
- And then they persecute
and kill without remorse.

Beware of the Scribes

Mark 12:38 *And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,*

- **12:39** *And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts:*
- **12:40** *Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.*

- **Luke 11:39-40**
- **But the Lord said to him,
“Now you Pharisees
clean the outside of the cup
and of the platter;
• but inside of you,
you are full of robbery
and wickedness.**

- They mask themselves **by appearing to be righteous.**

- The damnation of hypocrites will be of all others **the greatest damnation.**

- It is this that James **unmasked.**

- Revealing the **true character of some,**
not all.

- James is forcefully making the point **that wealth is temporary** and that eternity is forever.
- So to pursue wealth to the neglect of pursuing God or to trust in wealth as the solution to your deepest needs **is sheer folly!**

- **Jeremiah 5:21-25**

**‘Now hear this,
O foolish and
senseless people,**

- **Who have eyes but do not see;**
- **Who have ears but do not hear.**
- **‘Do you not fear Me?’
declares the Lord.**
- **‘Do you not tremble
in My presence?’**

- How were the brethren to respond to this treatment?

- James 5:7

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.

- Bear your afflictions without murmuring.
- A most difficult command.

- It is a humble acceptance **in the wisdom and will of God,**

- Keeping an eye to a future

- glorious recompense:**

- **James 5:7**

- Be patient to the coming of the Lord.***

- **And what will that prove?**

- There's an All-Seeing eye watching !

- **Proverbs 15:3**

**The eyes of the Lord
are in every place,
keeping watch on
the evil
and
the good.**

- He shall come again **at the end of this age.**
 - Then all wrongs **shall be righted**
 - And the oppressed **avenged.**
- **Do not judge the Lord by His unfinished work.**

2 Thessalonians 1:6

Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

- **2Th 1:7** ***And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,***

- **2 Thessalonians 1:8**

In flaming fire

- *taking vengeance on them*
 - *that know not God,*
- *and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

- **2 Thessalonians 1:9**

Who shall be punished

- *with everlasting destruction*

- *from the presence
of the Lord,*

- *and from the
glory of his power;*

- **2 Thessalonians 1:10**

When he shall come

- ***to be glorified
in his saints,***

- ***and to be admired
in all them that believe***

- **Malachi 4:1**

*For, behold, the day comes,
that shall burn as an oven;
and all the proud,*

- *and all that do wickedly,*

- *shall be stubble:*

- *and the day that comes
shall burn them up,
saith the LORD of hosts,...*

- Surely as there is a God
there will be a day of retribution:

- **For the crimes of men;**

- **And for suffering saints.**

- **James 5:10**

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

- **5:11** *Behold, we count them happy which endure. You have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

- 1 Corinthians 1:25

*“The foolishness of God
is wiser than men”*

- As the rich fool
in Jesus’ parable found out.

- He had plenty stored up
for this life,

- But when he died,
he was poor where it mattered most

- He was not rich toward God
(**Luke 12:16-21**).

- To be rich without God
is to be short-sighted
in light of eternity.

- **Alcibiades**

{ AL-sib-EYE-ə-deez },

the friend of Socrates

lived a degenerate life.

- And there were times when he said to Socrates:

- "***Socrates, I hate you; for every time I see you, you show me what I am.***"

- **May we show the world** what they ought to be.

- **Matthew 5:14**

You are the light of the world.

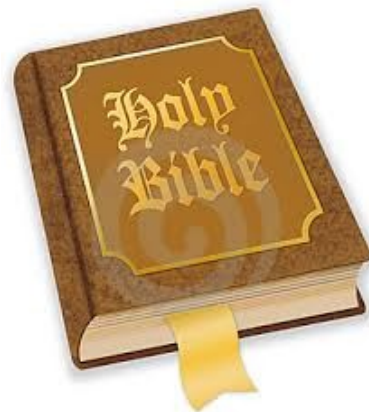
- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17



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