

The Christian Arsenal

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INVESTING MY LIFE BY FINDING SATISFACTION Investing Your Life

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Part 6 of 7

Eccl. 5:10-12 (LB)

“He who loves money shall never have enough. The foolishness of thinking that wealth brings happiness! The more you have, the more you spend, right up to the limits of your income, so what is the advantage of wealth – except perhaps to watch it as it runs through your fingers! The man who works hard sleeps well whether he eats little or much, but the rich must worry and suffer insomnia.”

Eccl. 5:10-12 (LB)

The average person says they need 20-40% more to be happy.

1. WHAT WE HOPE WEALTH WILL BRING:

- **MORE SATISFACTION**

The problem is that your yearning power will always exceed your earning power.

“You will never be satisfied if you long to be rich. You will never get all you want.” Eccl. 5:10 (GN)

“It’s foolish to think wealth brings happiness.” Eccl. 5:10 (LB)

- **MORE SIGNIFICANCE**

“Man’s true life is not made up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he may be.” Luke 12:15 (GN)

Your value is not based on your valuables.

- **MORE SECURITY**

“Money can be gone in a flash as if it had grown wings and flown away like an eagle.” Proverbs 23:5 (GN)

2. WHAT WEALTH REALLY BRINGS

1) MORE EXPENSES

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If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet the water bill is higher too.

“The more money you have, the more you spend, right up to the limits of your income...” Eccl. 5:11 (LB)

2) MORE WORRIES

“A working man ... can get a good night’s sleep, but the rich man has so much that he stays awake worrying.” Eccl. 5:12 (GN)

3) MORE PAIN IF IT’S LOST

“...risky investments turn sour, and soon there’s nothing left. It is all swept away. The rest of his life he’s under a cloud – gloomy, discouraged, frustrated, and angry.” Eccl. 5:14, 17 (LB)

4) MORE RESPONSIBILITY TO USE IT WISELY

“If you are untrustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven.” Luke 16:11 (LB)

God has chosen money as a way to test your character.

You cannot be a mature Christian without settling the issue of money in your life.

“A man works hard to keep gaining more riches, and to whom will he leave it all?” Eccl. 4:8 (LB)

What you don’t work for, you don’t appreciate. Inherited wealth tends to breed irresponsibility.

“We leave the world just as we entered it – with nothing.” Eccl. 5:15 (GN)

3. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO WITH MY MONEY?

Four Attitudes God Wants you to Have

1) BE GRATEFUL

“If God gives a man wealth and property he should be grateful and enjoy what he has worked for. It is a gift from God.”

“Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” Deut. 8:18

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Thanksgiving for the believer is not a holiday – it's a lifestyle.

2) **BE GLAD**

“Enjoy prosperity whenever you can, and when hard times strike, realize that God gives one as well as the other – so everyone will realize that nothing is certain in this life.” Eccl. 7:14 (LB)

Happiness isn't getting whatever you want. Happiness is enjoying whatever you have.

“God created everything in the world for our enjoyment.” I Tim. 6:17

“It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to always be wanting something else.” Eccl. 6:9

3) **BE GENEROUS**

The more giving you become, the more like God you become. The more miserly you are, the less like God you are.

“Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later.” Eccl. 11:1 (LB)

“Tell those who are rich ... not to trust in their money which will soon be gone. Tell them to use their money to do good ... to give happily to those in need; always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity.” I Tim. 6:17-19 (LB)

There is only one antidote to materialism – GIVE

4) **BE GODLY (PUT GOD FIRST IN MY LIFE)**

“You cannot serve two masters ... you cannot serve both God and money.” Luke 16:13

If God told you to give something away right now and you said, No, God, I could give anything away but that” and you couldn't give it away, then you don't own it – it owns you. You become possessed by your possessions.

Where will I put my investment of money – eternity or here and now?

“Save riches for yourself in heaven ... for your heart will always be where your riches are.” Matt. 6:20,21 (GN)

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God wants what your money represents – YOUR HEART.