JAMES

"Warning" November 15, 2015

"Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment. For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies. You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you. Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return." James 5:1-7 (NLT)

"Let's take a look at what lies ahead on the path you are heading. The riches you so desire will rot. The gold and silver you are fighting for is corroded. You're fighting so hard for your way, for wealth, but what you are ending up with is judgment. You really think you are living it up, but death is still the ultimate price for doing it your way. You simply die with more stuff. Not only that, but you have destroyed relationships getting there. So, be patient- establish your hearts- God will do what he has promised and return. He will return soon, stay focused and steadfast!"

How God views wealth:

- He doesn't care how much we have
- He does care how we got it and what we do with it

3 self-destructive behaviors when handling finances:

- (vs.3) <u>Hoarding</u> ("you have hoarded")
- (vs.4) Cheating ("you have cheated")
- (vs.5) Wasting ("satisfying your every desire")

God will give me everything I need to do everything He has created me to do.

Positive behaviors and outcomes from trusting God:

Learning contentment

"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)

- Becoming more <u>accountable</u> with our money
- Becoming more generous

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NLT)