

*Warnings to the  
Wealthy*

GENUINE FAITH | WEEK 3

# *Two Realities*

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- Before we get to James, let's nail down 2 realities regarding wealth:
  1. Americans are all wealthy compared to the world
  2. The Bible doesn't condemn all who are wealthy

# Wealthy Americans

1. Most Americans are wealthy compared to the world
  - If there is food in your fridge, you have shoes and clothes, you have a bed and a roof, you are richer than 75% of the people in the world.
  - If you have a bank account, money in your wallet and some coins in a box, you belong to the 8% of the people in the world who are well-to-do.
  - According to the non-profit group Giving What We Can, an annual income of \$40,000 places you in the richest 2.0% of the world's population. An income of \$25,000/year puts you in the top 3%.

# *Proverbs on Wealth*

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- Wealth and Riches in the end of life
- Riches won't help on the day of judgment, but right living can save you from death. Proverbs 11:4
- Trust in your money and down you go! But the godly flourish like leaves in spring. Proverbs 11:28

# *Proverbs on Wealth*

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- How to get Wealth and Riches God's way
  - Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine. Proverbs 3:9-10
  - True humility and fear of the Lord lead to riches, honor, and long life. Proverbs 22:4

# *Proverbs on Wealth*

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- Benefits of Wealth and Riches for the godly
  - Wealth is a crown for the wise; the effort of fools yields only foolishness. Proverbs 14:24
  - The wealth of the rich is their fortress; the poverty of the poor is their destruction. Proverbs 10:15

# *Warnings*

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- Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers by labor increases it. Proverbs 13:11
- JAMES 1:9-11
  - By the world's standards the rich should boast in their riches and the poor man should mourn his poverty.
  - However in the kingdom of God there is no room for a rich man to boast, for his riches gain him nothing! It is the poor man who can boast in his likeness to Jesus.
  - Notice that James is talking to those who have gained their wealth in ways other than God's ways.

# *Warnings*

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- JAMES 5:1-6
  - It is interesting to note that this group of people was within hearing distance of James' letter! These people had come to Jesus for salvation!
  - He lists their ways to wealth: they cheated their field workers of pay, they fattened themselves in luxury, they committed murder of innocents.
  - Their hoarding for themselves will be brought against them in their judgment. So, what should they do?



# *Genuine Faith*

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- James says they should humble themselves, see the trouble ahead for them and by genuine faith start giving it away— meeting other's needs.
- “Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”— but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?” James 2:15-16

# *Don't Trust in Riches*

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- Because earthly riches have no eternal value, we must not trust in, or rely upon them for security, satisfaction or salvation.
  - Many people have obtained earthly wealth yet still are not satisfied with what they have.
  - Jesus said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own...Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.” Luke 12:15, 21

# *Sage Money Wisdom*

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- “Money is like manure; piled up it stinks, but spread out like fertilizer it makes things grow” – Greg Laurie
- “The greatest antidote to materialism is generosity” – Rick Warren
- When it comes to the best use of our resources it isn’t “To me,” but “Through me!” – Anonymous
- 15% of Jesus’ words were about money, more than he said about heaven and hell combined. – Anonymous
- “You can tell more about our spiritual life by looking at our checking account than by any other measure” – Larry Burkett (paraphrased)