

JAMES AT A GLANCE – 5:1-6

Warnings to the Wealthy – Sorting out eternal life and possessions

4 Classifications of people- those who are:

- 1) poor without and within – have little/do not know God
- 2) rich without and rich within – rich economically & spiritually
- 3) poor without and rich within- little possessions & born again
- 4) rich without and poor within- wealthy/do not know God

The wealthy were rebuked (5:1) because of 4 reasons-

- 1) Guilty of hoarding their wealth (v. 2-3)- 3 basic ways/disuse
 - a. Food- (rots) b. clothing-(moth-eaten) c. gold and silver (tarnishes). Time and disuse turn people's attitudes toward life into bitterness & disappointment
- 2) They cheated others (v. 4) – day laborers lived on verge of starvation & withholding a day's wage could cause the family not to eat. (Deut 24:14,15 Malachi 3:5)
- 3) Living a totally selfish lifestyle (v. 5) eat, drink and be merry- “get fat to get slaughtered” – they ignored the judgment that awaits this wanton self-indulgence
- 4) Taking advantage of the righteous (v. 6) – the wealthy were victimized and murdered by wealthy unbelievers

Divine Retribution – 4 promises of judgment – noted in above verses

- 1) Hoarded riches reap miserable dividends -emptiness
- 2) Riches provide no relief in eternity – Solomon's words (Prov 11:4)

- 3) The unjust acts of the unsaved are not forgotten – one of the most serious scenes in all Scriptures depicts the unsaved appearing before the Great White Throne to be judged (Rev. 20:11-15)
- 4) A lack of judgment today does NOT mean a lack of judgment tomorrow – there is still hope for the unbeliever to accept/believe God before he dies

God's concern is not with actual wealth, but with our attitude toward wealth. Attitude of contentment (v. 8)

God's counsel is not against people who are wealthy, but against the wrong priorities of the wealthy.