

HEAPING THAT HURTS!

James 5:1-6

INTRODUCTION: No matter how much money you have money cannot give you freedom to not worry about money! We spend a lot of our time thinking about money! Could that be one of the reasons the Word of God has so much to say about money? The Bible talks about the importance of money: the place of money in our lives: the use of our money: and the misuse of our money. Half of Jesus parables talk about money. 1 Timothy 6:10: there is nothing wrong with money itself. There is nothing wrong with having money. The problem is always the love of money! James 5:1; Genesis 13:2; Matthew 27:57-60. The problem comes when money becomes the controlling principle in our lives: 1 Timothy 6:9-10; James 5:1.

I. HEAPING TO YOUR HURT!

James 5:2-3: When we heap up money just to heap it up and don't put it to good use. We are told in the Scriptures to save up our money: 2 Corinthians 12:14; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Matthew 6:19-21. Our unused money may testify against us someday. James 5:2-3; James 5:3. Idle wealth heaped up for the last days may not be such a good idea after all.

II. THE CRIES OF FRAUDULENT MONEY!

Not only does James warn of the hurt of heaped up money, but secondly he warns of the cries of fraudulent money: James 5:4. When these big land owners did not pay their day laborers what they had promised it became fraudulent money in their pockets: James 5:4. The message is for today a laborer should be paid an honest wage for their labor. We also need to learn that Christians must learn to pay their bills. There are two cries that go up from fraudulent wealth: the cries of the wages: The fraudulent money cries out and the laborers also cry out to the Lord. James 5:4.

III. THE SHAME OF WANTON LIVING!

There is misery of heaped up money. There is the misery of fraudulent money and there is also the shame of wanton living: James 5:5. The word "pleasure means luxurious living. That kind of living and spending has a way of breaking down our moral standards. Having great wealth can have a tendency to have a negative effect on our moral standards. We dare not allow our money to take our hearts from our Lord. James 5:5. Wanton means that you have been merciless and inhuman to your fellow man. James 5:5; 1 Timothy 6:17; 1 Corinthians 4:7.

IV. BE RICH TOWARD GOD!

We must learn to be rich toward our God: Luke 16:9-13. We need to take the money our Lord entrusts to us and use it for His glory and mankind's good. We need to learn to invest our money for our Lord's glory: 1 Timothy 6:17-19. One of these days, if you are trusting in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior you are going to die and go to heaven. The money that you gave over the years to serve your Lord will come back to you and be multiplied in eternal rewards.