

## **Rotted Riches (James 4:10, 5:1-6)**

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### **Introduction**

God's principle for overcoming arrogant behavior

1. God saved us to walk humbly before Him. "*He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us*" (4:5).
2. God gives grace for repentance (4:6-9).
3. God's fundamental rule for piety: "*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you*" (4:10).

Three examples of arrogant behavior:

1. In *relationships* (scandal mongering, 4:11, 12).
2. In *business* (prideful presumption or iniquity, 4:13-17).
3. In *privilege* (elitism or abusive power, 5:1-6)

Our Text for Today

1. The Bible is not against our having riches. It is against our misusing riches.
2. James uses the term *rich* to describe prideful aristocracy or elitism (1:9-11; 2:5, 6; 5:1, 2).
3. Everything we have comes from God and is given for our use, enjoyment, and welfare.
4. The tendency for fallen humans is to find security and satisfaction in worldly wealth without God.

### **I. The Price of Misused Wealth**

1. A certain expectation of misery (v. 1)
2. The uncertainty of wealth in this life (v. 2)
3. The certainty that wealth cannot save from judgment (v. 3a)

### **II. The Manifestations of Misused Wealth**

1. Elitists believe that amassing wealth will assure them of security in the future (v. 3b).
2. Elitists often defraud their employees as a means to keep more of their wealth (v. 4).
3. Elitists wallow in luxury and self-indulgence (v. 5).
4. Elitists destroy the innocent in maintaining their privilege (v. 6).

### **III. The Root of Misused Wealth**

1. *Covetousness*, lust for the idol (Eph. 5:5)
2. *Love of money*, devotion to the idol (1 Tim. 6:10)
3. Greed, *excessive appetite* for the idol's rewards (Psa. 10:3; Ezek. 33:31)

### **Conclusion**

What if our economy were to collapse completely and wipe out all your savings and retirement, what would you do? Who do you really trust to provide and secure you against the future? (Matt. 6:24)