

Speaker: Pastor Buster Brown

Today's Message: "Just a Little Bit More" (The Vanity of Wealth Lived Only Under the Sun)

Today's Text: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

"¹⁰ He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. ¹¹ When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? ¹² Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

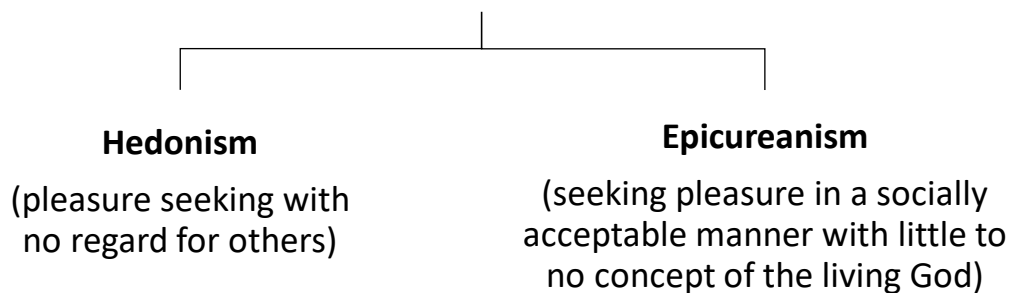
¹³ There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ¹⁴ and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. ¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand.

¹⁶ This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷ Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

¹⁸ Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹ Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. ²⁰ For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart."

Smoke & Mist/Vanity

(Living only Under the Sun)



Solomon had lived as an epicurean in his mid-life and now he is bitterly reflecting on that experience.

REGARDING WEALTH, from a recovering epicurean:

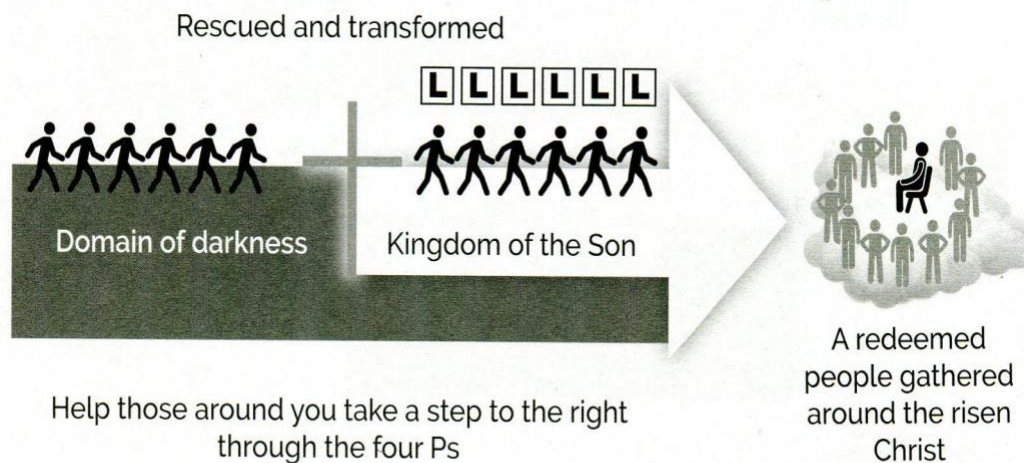
1. Money does not bring satisfaction. (v.10)
2. The pursuit of wealth is a "poor bed." (v.12)
3. Wealth brings no guarantees. (v.13-16)
4. The pursuit of wealth, as the primary goal of your life, can lead to a wretched life of vexation, sickness, anger and isolation.(v.17)

THE WEALTH CONUNDRUM

1. Wealth is a blessing from God, but is a horrid/appalling master. *“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.” I Timothy 6:17-19*
2. We are called to live as stewards. *“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19*
3. The way a believer handles wealth is a barometer of his faith. (Hebrews 13:1-6)
4. We are called to a life of God-honoring, expectant enjoyment. (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 and I Timothy 6:17-20)

APPLICATION

- God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
In this situation, it is not ‘what’ is missing from Solomon’s life, but ‘Who’ is missing.
- The importance of the Biblical tithe and keeping our hearts anchored to Christ, while not being seduced by the love of wealth. *“Tithing gives perspective. It reminds us that all we are and all we have is from God. Tithing is not a tip thrown mindlessly down on a table after a meal, but a meaningful expression of dependence upon God and gratitude to him. Tithing requires calculation. When we deal specifically with the amounts God has provided, we assess God’s goodness to us. We literally count our blessings, thanking him for his generosity. Tithing was, and can still be, a built-in reminder - at every juncture of life- of our unlimited debt to God.” Randy Alcorn. Money, Possessions & Eternity. Tyndale House, p.179*



The **PERSEVERING** **PROCLAMATION** of the gospel of grace **PRAYERFULLY** carried out by the **PEOPLE** of God.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is wealth a wonderful blessing but a horrid master?
2. What steps are involved in the destruction of a life because of the epicurean pursuit of wealth?
3. Why does the Lord love a cheerful giver? (2 Corinthians 9: 7)
4. List three principles from 1 Timothy 6:17, 19.
5. Why is wealth a “poor bed”?