

Book: Ecclesiastes
Series: Two Ways to Live: Under the Sun or In the Fear of God
Lesson 7: The Futility of Life, Part 7
Text: Ecclesiastes 5:8-20
Date: Sunday, March 3, 2013
Next Lesson: Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

INTRODUCTION

In our study through the book of Ecclesiastes, we're "exploring the darkness" of chapters 1-6. We have been learning that **life merely lived "under the sun" is futile**. As we turn to 5:8-20, we discover that the "life under the sun" worldview is not redeemed by _____. Today, we take a fieldtrip to Hollywood, Manhattan, Wall Street, or even Geist and witness the great disappointment of wealth.

THE _____ OF WEALTH (vv. 8-17)

1. _____ (vv. 8-9)

2. _____ (v. 10)

3. _____ (v. 11)

4. _____ (v. 12)

5. _____ (vv. 13-17)

Application:

Transition: A problem arises here, however: we all of necessity will interact with money, for on one level, "Money does make the world go around." It seems, then, that we traverse the difficult road between the love of money on the one side and the need for money on the other. How does a wise individual traverse this terrain?

THE _____ OF GOD (vv. 18-20)

Before we consider the plans of God in these verses, we first need to issue a warning:

1. **We can make a _____ (v. 18).**

2. **[Because] God has made a _____ (v. 19).**

3. **The balance will be _____ (v. 20).**

Application:

CONCLUSION

Our fieldtrip among the mansions, fashion malls, and opulent parties has taught us that true significance and fulfillment is not discovered there. Instead, "in the fear of God" it is found in your small 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch home in the neighborhoods of Nora. Because that is "God's gift to you," and grateful contentment in it is the starting point of lasting joy.