

**James**

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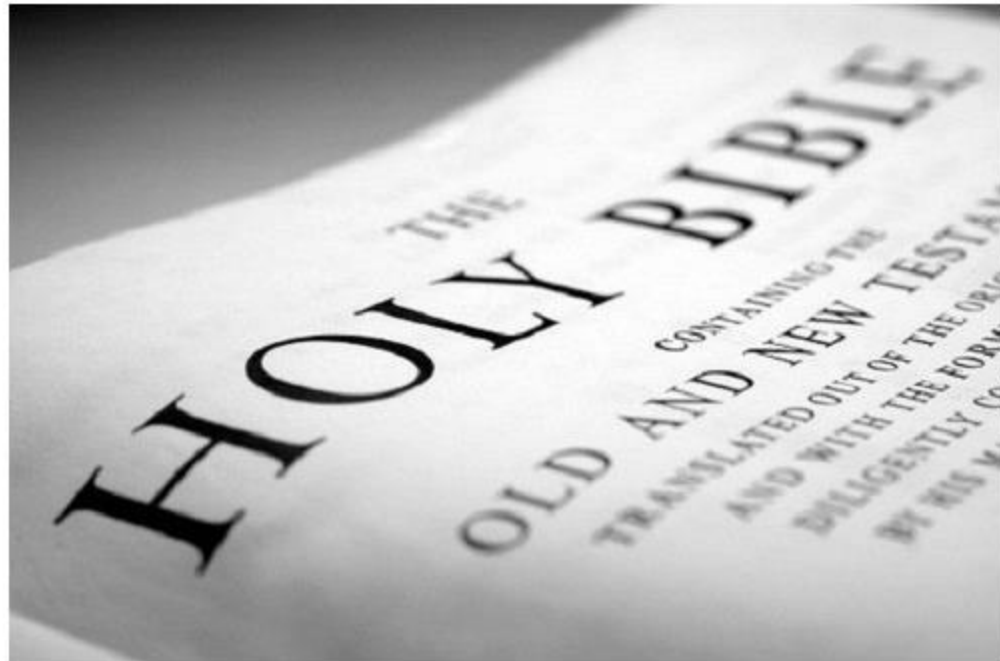
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[If God is Good](#)

[James](#)

[Jesus](#)

[Life Changing Words](#)



"What will Jesus say to the church of our day which has billions of dollars in real estate holdings all to honor a God who says 'I dwell not in houses made with hands'?"  
Tony Campolo

# James 4

- **What does the Bible have to say about money?**
- **What is the greatest lesson you've learned about money?**
- **How is money like the internet?**

# James 4

- **13** Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” **14** Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. **15** Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” **16** As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. **17** If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

# The End of James 4

- **Presumption.**
- **Brevity of Life.**
- **There are sins of omission.**

# James 5:1-6

- **Since there are no chapter/verse divisions in the scriptures, we should not assume that chapter 5 is a new topic.**
- **Chapter 4 ended with presumption, the brevity of life, and sins of omission.**
- **That is the setting for the start of chapter 5.**

# James 5:1-6

- **1** Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. **2** Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. **3** Your gold and silver have become worthless. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This treasure you have accumulated will stand as evidence against you on the day of judgment. **4** For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The wages you held back cry out against you. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies. **5** You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. **6** You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.

# James 5:1-6

- I am not sure why James makes such a sweeping indictment of the rich – surely there were some godly rich people.
- I suspect it's because there is so much more temptation that comes with money that he wanted to get everyone's attention.
- He should get our attention too because by global standards we are all rich.



# James 5:1-6

- **Eccl 5:10** Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.
- **Matt 6:24** No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.
- **Luke 3:14** Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely--be content with your pay."

# James 5:1-6

- **1<sup>st</sup> Tim 6:10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.“
- **Matt 6:21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- **Mal 3:10** “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

# James 5:1-6

- **The call is to wake up to what lies ahead of those who presume their wealth will always be in plentiful supply.**
- **When he says there are troubles ahead he means judgment day, but it could easily apply to the next economic disaster.**
- **This is true – no matter how much wealth we may think we have, we are all just one event away from bankruptcy.**

# James 5:1-6

- We dare not presume that we will always have enough – we are an historical aberration of sorts in that we do not have to struggle to survive.
- When I said we are all just one event away at any time from economic ruin, the real call is to a dependence on God no matter what we think we have.
- It is the both the best, and worst, state of mind.

# James 5:1-6

- James' warning is longer term, and pointing to judgment day, where Christians will be called to give and account, and unbelievers will be judged by their works.
- Luke 12:48 But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.
- Warning – there are no punishments for Christians at the bema, but there are loss of rewards that ought not be taken lightly.

# James 5:1-6

- **We are all accountable for the resources God has placed in our hands.**
- **If he has given you a lot, he expects a lot.**
- **So in a sense the warning is to all of us – the rich are more prone to sin because there is a temptation to depend on wealth instead of God.**
- **Life is short – prepare for eternity.**

# James 5:7-11

- **7** Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. **8** You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. **9** Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door! **10** For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy

# James 5:7-11

- **The same sort of theme continues – life is short, it will soon be over, or the Lord will return before you know it.**
- **Here James mixes the second coming with suffering and I suspect there is a natural nexus between the two.**
- **We associate the second coming with victory and the end of suffering – when we hurt, the Lord's return is no longer academic, but a real hope.**



# James 5:7-11

- The reference to the farmers waiting patiently is probably best explained by Luke 19:13 –
- “So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’” (occupy)
- Farmers are patient because that’s how it works and there really is no other choice. 😊
- We’ve all been give certain resources to invest in the Kingdom – we are to look for Jesus’ return while we are using the resources he gave us.

# James 5:7-11

- James references Job here – when we think of Job we instantly get some pictures that are meaningful and valuable for life.
  - Injustice
  - Patience
  - Suffering
  - Restoration

# James 5:12

- **12 But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.**
- **It seems like a strange statement after talking about the Lord's return, putting our resources to work for him, and the brevity of life – to say “but most of all”.**
- **How can not taking an oath using an object as your stake in the claim be a ‘most of all’?**

# James 5:12

- James does not tell us, but I suspect it has to do with identifying an object as your witness in a testimony over God.
- Swearing an oath by some object makes that object your sacred point – like when someone says “I swear on my mother’s grave”.
- What we use to attest to our word is revealing about who our God is.

# Questions