

# Ecclesiastes Learning to Live LIFE as a Gift not gain.

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Chapter 5:1-26

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- Ecclesiastes 3:12–13 I know that **nothing is better** for them than **to rejoice, and to do good in their lives**,<sup>13</sup> and also that every man should eat and drink and **enjoy the good of all his labor**—it *is* the gift of God.
- Ecclesiastes 3:22 So I perceived that **nothing is better** than that **a man should rejoice in his own works**, for that *is* his heritage. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him?

# A Selfish Heart will not Enjoy God's Gift of Wealth

## A. **A Selfish Heart + Wealth = Inflated view of self. It Corrupts Worship, v. 1-3.**

- Ecclesiastes 5:1–3 Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and **draw near to hear** rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil.  
2 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart **utter anything hastily before God**. For God *is* in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few. 3 For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice *is known* by *his* many words.

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A. **A Selfish Heart + Wealth = Inflated view of self. It Corrupts Worship, v. 1-3.**

➤ McCabe:

**Guard your steps** when you go to the house of God. **Draw near to listen** rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not recognize that they are doing wrong.

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## A. **A Selfish Heart + Wealth = Inflated view of self. It Corrupts Worship, v. 1-3.**

- Mark 12:29 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments *is*: ‘*Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.*
- John 10:27 **My sheep hear My voice**, and I know them, and they follow Me.
- Romans 10: So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.

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- Galatians 3:2 This only I want to learn from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith.**
- James 1:19 So then, my beloved brethren, let **every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.**
- Revelation 1:3 **Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.**

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## A. A Selfish Heart + Wealth = Inflated view of self. It Corrupts Worship, v. 1-3.

➤ McCabe:

**Do not be quick with your mouth or impulsive in your heart** to utter anything before God, for **God is in heaven and you are on earth**. Therefore, **let your words be few**. 3

For dreams come with many cares and the speech of the fool with many words.

# A Selfish Heart will not Enjoy God's Gift of Wealth

## B. A Selfish Heart + Wealth = Hypocrisy. It Corrupts Fear, v. 4-7.

- Ecclesiastes 5:4–7 When you make a vow to God, **do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools.** Pay what you have vowed—<sup>5</sup> Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. <sup>6</sup> **Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin,** nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. **Why should God be angry at your excuse** and destroy the work of your hands? <sup>7</sup> For in the multitude of dreams and many words *there is also vanity.* **But fear God.**

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## B. **A Selfish Heart + Wealth = Hypocrisy. It Corrupts Fear,** **v. 4-7.**

- McCabe:  
It is better that you do not make a vow than that you make a vow and do not fulfill it. **6 Do not let your mouth lead you into sin**, and do not say to the priest that it was a mistake. **Why should God be angry at your words and destroy the work of your hands.**

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**v. 4-7.**

- Romans 12:9 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*

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## B. **A Selfish Heart + Wealth = Hypocrisy. It Corrupts Fear, v. 4-7.**

- Galatians 6:7–8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
- 1 Corinthians 3:17 If anyone **defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him.** For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are

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➤ McCabe:

7 Yet, in spite of many dreams, enigmas, and many words,  
then, **fear God.**

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## C. A Selfish Heart + Wealth = Injustice. It Corrupts Authority, v. 8-9.

- Ecclesiastes 5:8–9 If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them.<sup>9</sup> Moreover the profit of the land is for all; even the king is served from the field.

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## D. A Selfish Heart + Wealth = Dissatisfaction and Worry. It Corrupts Affections, v.v. 10-12.

- Ecclesiastes 5:10–12 He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also *is* vanity (a frustrating puzzlement). <sup>11</sup> When goods increase, They increase who eat them; So **what profit** have the owners Except to see *them* with their eyes? <sup>12</sup> **The sleep of a laboring man is sweet,** Whether he eats little or much; **But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.**

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## D. A Selfish Heart + Wealth = Dissatisfaction and Worry. It Corrupts Affections, v.v. 10-12.

- 1 Timothy 6:6–10 Now **godliness with contentment is great gain.** <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is certain we can carry nothing out.* <sup>8</sup> And having food and clothing, with these we shall **be content.** <sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.* <sup>10</sup> For **the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.