

JAMES #10 - THE RICH WARNED

JAMES 5:1-6

The wealthy among them were oppressing the poor (2:6-7). These verses condemn the unjust landlord and lender. Our riches are to be used in a Biblical and Christ-like manner.

I. THE UNJUST RICH WARNED (vs.1)

A. Gaining / using riches: The accounting day will come!

1. This sounds like America today
2. We must live differently - as good stewards

B. Many will howl and cry out in grief GAL. 6:7-10

1. This is the law of sowing and reaping
2. You reap AFTER you sow
3. You reap MORE than you sow
4. You reap WHAT you sow

II. THE DOOM OF THE UNJUST RICH (vs.2-3)

A. This is a description of their riches

1. They are corrupted and rusted (through non-use)
2. They shall bite into the flesh (as fire)

B. See the folly of the rich (vs.3b)

1. Abundant riches for the last days (of this life)
2. But all will be left behind at death
3. USE wealth to be rich with God LUKE 12:16-21

III. THE SINS OF THE UNJUST RICH (vs.4-6)

A. Injustice towards the laborer (or helpless) (vs.4)

1. Mosaic Law condemns Deut. 24:14-15 / Lev. 19:13
2. Remember Israel in Egyptian bondage
3. Their taskmasters made them labor to make brick
4. God heard their cries and acted!

B. Living in luxury and extravagance (vs.5)

1. The rich grow fat in body but weak with God
2. The oppressed grow more and more poor
3. This is everyday life in many corrupt nations!

C. They condemned and killed the just (vs.6)

IV. THE CORRECT USE OF OUR RICHES

A. We are instructed to be good stewards 1 COR. 4:1-2

1. Gain wealth honestly and use it for God's glory
2. Every windfall or raise is an opportunity!

B. Invest in the best retirement ever known MATT. 6:19-20