



Study Guide – Ecclesiastes Session 4 – Wisdom for Wealth

Week Commencing 10th February 2019

1. Gianni Versace said, *“I have a fantastic relationship with money. I use it to buy my freedom”* Do you think our relationship with money and wealth is ever as straightforward as this?

Please read **Ecclesiastes 5.10; 1 Timothy 6.10; Matthew 6.21-24**

2. Why is money and wealth such a tempting, yet terrible choice for our love, devotion and service?
3. God and materialism are two different masters, with two different treasures – with different values, different ambitions and different moulds. What’s your choice? What are the real-life implications for you in living out this choice?

Please read **Ecclesiastes 5.11-13; Matthew 6.31-33**

4. What are some of the dangers associated with accumulating more wealth, possessions or money than you need or can reasonably use?
5. The hoarder is owned by their stuff – they have become dependent on it, they could not be without it, they fear losing it. In pursuing ‘freedom’ and ‘meaning’ through materialism, the hoarder has participated in creating a kind of materialistic prison for themselves of neediness, dependence and fear. Can you identify any signs of this phenomenon in your own life?

Please read **Ecclesiastes 5.15-20; 1 Timothy 6.6-8**

6. The Teacher’s wisdom for wealth involves: recognising the Giver; thankfulness for His gifts; living life now in light of the eternal big picture; finding satisfaction in our work (recognising that it also is a gift from God); and stewarding all of this in honour of the Giver of all good gifts. How might you begin to live more like this? What needs to change?