

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for August 12-13, 2000

"Misusing Wealth and Power Brings God's Judgment"

Dale Whitehead

James 5:1-6

The Bible does not teach that possessing wealth is sinful in and of itself (Proverbs 10:22).

The Bible does not teach that we cannot enjoy the wealth that the Lord has given us (1 Timothy 6:17).

The love of money is the problem (1 Timothy 6:10).

The sharp rebuke of the wicked wealthy by James is in keeping with the tradition of Old Testament prophets (Isaiah 3:14-15; 10:1-4; Amos 8:4-10).

James denunciation appears to be aimed at his wealthy, unbelieving countrymen who were exploiting the poor, many of whom were in the church.

James lists four different indictments against the ungodly rich.

Indicted for hoarding

But the foolishness of hoarding becomes magnified when we consider the future judgment (James 5:3).

The verb "rust" (KATIOTAI) is a strong term which means "thoroughly or completely corroded or rusted."

The best way to understand this is simply to view James as intentionally applying this strong verb to their hoarded gold and silver to remind them that in the judgment day this wealth would prove to be as worthless as rusted-out iron.

How are we to use our wealth to minister to others?

We are to meet the spiritual needs of people (Luke 16:9-10).

We are to meet the physical needs of people especially the physical needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ (1 John 3:16-18).

We are to support those in ministry (1 Corinthians 9:4-14).

Indicted for fraud

Indicted for self-indulgence

Indicted for murder