

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**August 19-20 2000**

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### **"Misusing Wealth and Power Brings God's Judgment"**

**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).

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.

1. Indicted for hoarding

2. Indicted for fraud

Sabaoth is an untranslated Greek word which derives from the Hebrew word TSABA meaning hosts or armies. The phrase "Lord of Sabaoth" describes God as Commander of the armies of heaven (1 Samuel 17:45-46).

3. Indicted for self indulgence

"Lived luxuriously" (ETRUPHESATE) literally means "lived delicately" - a soft, pampered life.

"Wanton pleasure" (ESPATALESATE) has the sense of giving oneself to the pursuit of pleasure. Those who live luxuriously very often descend into unrestrained indulgence.

There is only one way for us to satisfy the deepest needs of our lives and that is to surrender our lives to the Lord.

4. Indicted for murder

It appears that the ungodly rich used their influence with pagan judges to secure adverse judgments against the righteous poor rich, which ultimately resulted in their death.