

Sermon Notes

The Discomfort (and Comfort) of God's Judgment

James 5:1-6

A. The Wicked Rich Waste Their Wealth

"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!" (James 5:1-3) NASB

B. The Wicked Rich Cheat Others to Become Rich

"Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth." (James 5:4) NASB

C. The Wicked Rich Are Blinded by Their Wealth

"You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you. (James 5:5-6) NASB

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. How has money been a blessing for you? How has money been a curse? What has made the difference?

Going Deeper

3. Please read James 5:7. Why does James address people in vs. 1-6 who will likely never read what he has written? How is the promise of God's certain judgment a comfort for the righteous?
4. Please read James 5:1-3. How have the wicked rich wasted what God entrusted to them? Please read Matthew 25:14-30. How does this parable explain vs. 1-3 in James? Why does God make some people wealthy? Are riches good or bad? Why?
5. Please read James 5:4. What do you learn about God from this verse? Please read Lev. 19:13 and Proverbs 3:28. Why is God concerned about if and when we pay our bills?
6. Please read James 5:5-6. In what ways can wealth blind us to reality (Matt. 6:22-23)? How does James say that the evil rich have been blinded by their wealth? How has money blinded you?

Application

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?