



"Wealth & Wisdom" (Ecclesiastes 5:8-20)

Danny Hodges- OT2361

I. THE TEXT

v.9 Nobody knows this better than Solomon himself. His lavish lifestyle cost his people plenty!

* I Kings 12: 3 So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him: 4 "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

v.11 If you become wealthy, friends you never knew you had will suddenly appear! And if God has granted you increase, you should be benevolent, unless there is a good reason not to. What are you going to do with your excess anyway except "feast your eyes upon it?"

v.12 The less you have in this life the less you have to worry about! And the less you have to distract you from the more important things in life!

* At age 53, John D. Rockefeller was the world's only billionaire, making about a million dollars a week. But he was a sick man who lived on crackers and milk and could not sleep because of worry. When he started giving his money away, his health changed radically and he lived to be 98 years old!

v.13 See Luke 12:13-21

v.14 Some people go from riches to rags, not rags to riches

v.15 Financial wealth is VERY UNCERTAIN!

* I Timothy 6: 17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

* Prov.23: 5 Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

* How many people were devastated after 9/11...people killing others, and themselves...

v.15 But we can store up treasures in heaven!

w.16-17 I think Solomon is talking about himself again!

w.18-20 This is the life that is so filled that it does not have time to sit around and talk about the past, etc. because it is so consumed with the present. While studying for this message, I wanted to say that this is me, but then I realized this is not me. It is to a point, but I must admit I struggle at times with wanting to go back to "the way things used to be, etc." But I will say this, my calling, the ministry, my family, and the enjoyment I have from the possessions God has given me consume me so much that I do not have time to sit around and simply "reflect" on the past....

* "...we catch a glimpse of the man for whom life passes swiftly, not because it is short and meaningless but because, by the grace of God, he finds it utterly absorbing." (Derek Kidner, pp.58-59)

II. LESSONS

A. Watch Out For The Love Of Money

* Does not satisfy

- Article on Howard Hughes

- **Cecil John Rhodes** [DCL](#) (5 July 1853 – 26 March 1902^[1]) was an [English](#)-born [businessman](#), mining [magnate](#), and [politician](#) in [South Africa](#). He was the founder of the diamond company [De Beers](#), which today markets 40% of the world's rough diamonds and at one time marketed 90%.^[2] An ardent believer in [colonialism](#) and [imperialism](#), he was the founder of the state of [Rhodesia](#), which was named after him. After independence, Rhodesia separated into the nations of [Northern](#) and [Southern Rhodesia](#), later renamed [Zambia](#) and [Zimbabwe](#), respectively. South Africa's [Rhodes University](#) is named after him. He set up the provisions of the [Rhodes Scholarship](#), which is funded by his estate.

- "It often strikes a man to inquire what is the chief goal in life; to one the thought comes that it is a happy marriage, to another great wealth, and as each seizes on his idea, for that he more or less works for the rest of his existence...He thinks now I have found the chief good in life, the novelty wears off, and he tires, to change again, he goes into the far interior after the wild game he thinks at last I've found that in life of which I cannot tire, again he is disappointed. He returns he thinks is there nothing I can do in life? Here I am with means, with a good house, with everything that is to envied and yet I am not happy I am tired of life...

* Is very uncertain

* Heb.13: 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money...

* I Tim.6: 9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

* Solomon himself fell to this evil

- See Deut. 17:16-19

- I Kings 10:14ff; II Chron.9:13ff

* Gehazi

* Ananias and Sapphira

B. Learn to Be Content In Life

* Phil.4: 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

* Heb.13: 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

* I Tim.6: 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

C. Invest In Heavenly Treasure

* Matt.6: 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

* Do your givin'
While you're livin'
Then you're knowin'
Where it's goin'

D. Leave An Inheritance Of Faith

* The greatest thing you can leave your child is a godly example/faith...

* Joshua 3-4, memorial stones of faith

CONCLUSION

- * How's your relationship to money?
- * Have you learned to be content, with or without?
- * Are you investing in heavenly treasure?
- * What kind of inheritance are you leaving your children?