

Finding Meaning: Wisdom from Ecclesiastes
The Problem with Wealth
Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Wealth is not bad. It isn't wrong to be rich. But we have a nature that is inclined toward discontentment, and often that discontentment turns into a sinful desire to have more money and build more wealth. Money is a good servant when we use it wisely, but it is a terrible and demanding master when we become a slave to it.

_____ comes from Christ, not our wealth.

1. Pursuing satisfaction in _____ is meaningless.
 - A. What we have is never _____.
 - B. What we have is what others _____.
 - C. What we have creates _____.

2. There are _____ to the problem with wealth.
 - A. Meaningful _____ are better than money.
 - B. Contentment in God's _____ is better than money.
 - C. _____ is better than money.

Ultimately, a love for Jesus is the answer to a love for money. When we embrace the cross, we are free to recover God's design for our money, which is simply to provide for our families and to give generously to others. The gospel transforms us into people who deeply enjoy what we have and generously meet the needs of others. The power of the gospel saves us from slavery to worldly wealth and allows us to find satisfaction in Christ alone.

Reflection

When you watch movies or hear stories about people who don't have much but are extremely happy, how do you feel? Do you think being wealthy only applies to those who are in higher tax bracket than yours? Solomon warns both the lazy person and the workaholic. How can we strike a balance in our lives? What are some things in your life that made you happy when you got them, but in looking back you realize the happiness didn't last long? How can you fight against anxiety when money seems to be the primary cause of it? How does the gospel motivate us to be generous people?