

## PARENTHESIS: "Is it wrong to be rich?"

- **Being rich is not inherently wrong.**  
—We see in Scripture that God has blessed many people with riches: Abram (Genesis 13:2), Isaac (Genesis 26:12–13), Solomon (1 Kings 10:23) and many, many more ...
- ***In General:*** (1 Samuel 2:7 ESV) The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.
- **Jesus instructs us to make sure our investment is in the incorruptible treasures of heaven versus the rotting, corroding treasures of earth.**  
—(Matthew 6:19–21 ESV) **Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- **Paul instructs the rich to set their hopes on God, not on the uncertainty of riches.**  
—(1 Timothy 6:17–19 ESV) As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, **nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides** us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.
- **Paul warns us about the desire to be rich.**  
—(1 Timothy 6:6–9 ESV) But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. **But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.**
- **Paul warns us about the love of money.**  
—(1 Timothy 6:10 ESV) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

## THE COMING MISERIES OF THE OPPRESSIVE RICH!

### ① Misery is coming for the oppressive rich, 5:1-3.

- The oppressive rich invested in the things that rot and corrode.
- This rotting and corroding of their investment will be evidence against them and will consume them.
- They hoarded their treasure in the face of coming judgment.

### ② This misery is coming upon them because they gained their wealth by fraud, 5:4-5.

- These rich people did not receive their wealth as God's blessing but by cheating the people who worked for them.
- They lived the high life at the expense of those they defrauded.

### ③ This misery is coming upon them because they gained their wealth by oppression, 5:6.

