



## You Can't Take It with You!

By Ken Terry on March 2, 2022

**TODAY'S READING:** James 5

Today's reading speaks to a level of consciousness that pervades all of mankind--the thought of riches, success and comfort. Many people work their entire lives to store up wealth to use towards their retirement. There is nothing wrong with this concept. However, when it becomes the primary goal in one's life, it manifests itself as an idol. This, my friends, is sin, and it will have consequences therein. Do you recall the story of the Rich Fool? *"And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'"* (Luke 12:19-20 NKJV).

Listen closely to what James has to say about riches and the sin that is created, *"Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days"* (James 5:2-3).

Yes, our primary goal in life should be working collectively together for the cause of Christ! The only riches we should be storing up are the riches in God's Kingdom. This takes time, commitment and perseverance! How are you in this effort? Are you actively engaged in the mission Jesus commissioned us? *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19-20). Amen. Or have you fallen into the ways of the world and only consume? Is your consciousness that of one who, at the expense of others, seemingly prospers in this fallen world? James speaks to this as well, *"You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter"* (James 5:5). Does this sound somewhat dark? I am sure, due to the fact that James does not pull any punches. He is straight forward and to the point.

But God!! All is not lost, my friends. If we find ourselves slipping into the trap laid by this world order, pray. If you see a brother or sister whose primary focus is self and self-preservation and not the love of God or Christ, pray with and for them as well. You see, it is not easy living differently than the world around you when you are not hearing or getting anything to counter it! Pray my friends, then pray some more. There is something mighty that can be accomplished through prayer. *"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much"* (James 5:16).

Yes, we fall at times. However, the key is to get back up, dust ourselves off and get back in the cause for Christ! Lay up those riches in heaven that will generate huge dividends in the

Kingdom of God. What you want to take with you, when you leave this earth, is the knowledge that Christ has done all He could through you as you focused your life on Him!

**PRAYER:** Our Father in the heavens, Jehovah God, we come before You now, Father, with a heart of thanksgiving. We thank You, Father, for the Lord Jesus Christ! We thank You, Father, for rescuing us through Him. We thank You, Father, for our place in Your Kingdom and ask that You continue to work in and through us as we love and serve one another. Help us, Father, keep your Kingdom first in our hearts and minds. It is hard for us with so many distractions. However, we know if we do so Your Spirit will drive out the outside influences that keep us overwhelmed. Help us, Father, keep our eyes on the prize, our upward call in Jesus. In Him we have a spiritual inheritance worth more than all the kingdoms of the world. Help us, Father, in this effort. We ask all these things in the matchless name of Jesus, amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** James 6

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