

FAITH + WORKS

JAMES



# James 5:1–3 and Matthew 6:19–21

- Material wealth doesn't last into eternity.
- James had harsh words for those who trust in wealth instead of God.
- When we read these words to “the rich,” a few questions arise. Who did James consider to be “the rich” in his time, and who would we consider to be “the rich” in ours?




# James 5:1–3 and Matthew 6:19–21

- In the first century, there was a small, wealthy, ruling, landowning, merchant class.
- The vast majority of people were peasants and slaves who served the rich, with a sort of middle class of artisans and civil servants between.
- In our culture, there are more levels between the rich ruling class and the peasant.





# How Rich Am I?

Find out how rich you are compared to the rest of the world – are you on the global rich list? 

Country

United States



Yearly household income (Post-tax) USD

Adults

Children

1



0



CALCULATE



# James 5:1–3 and Matthew 6:19–21

- But what if the line is not a certain amount of money but our attitude toward it?
- Was James talking to everyone who has money or just those who love money?
- Paul said, “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evils” (1 Timothy 6:10).



# James 5:1–3 and Matthew 6:19–21

- Paul didn't condemn money itself but putting our hope and trust in money instead of God (1 Timothy 6:17–19).
- Jesus warned against storing up treasures on earth without being rich toward God (Luke 12:16–21).
- He also said it was the responsibility of the rich to care for the poor (Luke 16:19–31).



# James 5:1–3 and Matthew 6:19–21

- In this passage, James painted a specific picture of “the rich” he was condemning:
- (1) They had laid up treasures on earth; (2) They had not paid fair wages to their workers; (3) They lived in luxury and self-indulgence, (4) They had condemned and murdered the righteous.



# James 5:1–3 and Matthew 6:19–21

- First, like all wisdom literature, James said putting our trust in riches is foolish because riches don't last.
- Psalms and Proverbs tell us trusting in wealth instead of God will fail us (Psalm 49:5–13; 52:5–7; Proverbs 11:28).
- Job even called it sin (Job 31:24–28).



# James 5:1–3 and Matthew 6:19–21

- Paul told us riches are a snare (1 Timothy 6:9) and instructed the rich not to put their hope in their wealth (1 Timothy 6:17–19).
- Jesus warned against storing up earthly treasures without being rich toward God (Luke 12:16–21) and told us to store up treasures in heaven where moth and rust can't destroy (Matthew 6:19–21).



# James 5:1–3 and Matthew 6:19–21

- Even before eternity, riches can come and go so easily.
- One bad investment, lost job, or failed business venture, and suddenly your wealth is gone.
- We cannot trust in riches; they are uncertain.
- When riches come and go, God is faithful and steady.



FOREWORD BY MAX KEISER

# THE BIG PRINT

WHAT HAPPENED TO AMERICA  
AND HOW SOUND MONEY WILL FIX IT



LAWRENCE LEPARD



LYN ALDEN

# BROKEN MONEY

Why Our Financial System is Failing Us  
and How We Can Make it Better





# James 5:4–6 and Malachi 3:1–5

- No one should gain riches by oppressing workers.
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had great wealth gained through hard work, and sometimes through supernatural intervention (Genesis 24:35; 30:29–43).
- But later in the biblical story, God warned the kings against accumulating wealth because it could turn them away from Him (Deuteronomy 17:14–20).



# James 5:4–6 and Malachi 3:1–5

- The law commanded God's people not oppress their workers or rob them by not paying them the full wages they earned.
- It even demanded they not wait until the next day to pay the day laborer, because they lived day-to-day and needed that day's wage to survive (Leviticus 19:13; Deuteronomy 24:14–15).



# James 5:4–6 and Malachi 3:1–5

- When we look around at some businesses today, do we see oppression of workers, unjust pay, or even slave labor being used to make some of the products we enjoy?
- The U.S. Department of Labor has a list of goods produced by child labor or forced labor around the world. More than 20 million people around the world are victims of slavery, generating \$150 billion in illegal profits per year.



# List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor

The Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) maintains a list of goods and their source countries which it has reason to believe are produced by child labor or forced labor in violation of international standards, as required under the [Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act \(TVPRA\)](#) of 2005 and subsequent reauthorizations. The List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor comprises 204 goods from 82 countries and areas, as of September 5, 2024.

The [Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2018](#) [↗](#) directs that the List include, "to the extent practicable, goods that are produced with inputs that are produced with forced labor or child labor."

ILAB maintains the List primarily to raise public awareness about forced labor and child labor around the world and to promote efforts to combat them; it is not intended to be punitive, but rather to serve as a catalyst for more strategic and focused coordination and collaboration among those working to address these problems.

[Read More »](#)

 [List of Goods \(Full Report\)](#)

 [List of Goods \(Excel\)](#)

 [List of Goods \(Bibliography\)](#)

[Identifying Goods Produced with Inputs Produced with Forced Labor or Child Labor \(Webpage\)](#)

 [Consideration of Goods for Removal from the List Infographic](#)

If you need 508-compliant versions of these files, please contact [GlobalKids@dol.gov](mailto:GlobalKids@dol.gov).



**HIDDEN REPRESSION**

**HOW THE IMF**

**AND WORLD BANK**

**SELL EXPLOITATION**

**AS DEVELOPMENT**

**ALEX GLADSTEIN**

FOREWORD BY JEFF BOOTH

AFTERWORD BY FARIDA NABOUREMA

# CHECK YOUR FINANCIAL PRIVILEGE

INSIDE THE GLOBAL BITCOIN REVOLUTION





# James 5:4–6 and Malachi 3:1–5

- God's law commands His people to use honest scales when measuring length, weight, or quantity (Leviticus 19:35–36; Deuteronomy 25:13–16).
- It was common practice for businessowners to intentionally set their scales incorrectly so when a farmer brought in wheat, grapes or other produce to market, the scale would say it weighed less than it really did so they wouldn't have to pay the full value.



# James 5:5; Ezekiel 16:49–50, 34:1–10

- Godly people live lives of service and generosity.
- There are wealthy people who live humble lives of service and generosity, who use their wealth to help others and make the world a better place.
- And then there are wealthy people who use their wealth only for themselves, to live lives of luxury and self-indulgence. James criticized those kinds of rich people.



# James 5:5; Ezekiel 16:49–50, 34:1–10

- When we think of the people of Sodom, we usually think of their sexual sin; but in Ezekiel, God condemned them for being arrogant, overfed, and unconcerned for the people.
- God also condemned the leaders of Israel for using the people for their own gain, not caring for them as the flock.
- This is the same imagery James used about the rich in this passage.



# James 5:5; Ezekiel 16:49–50, 34:1–10

- James described the rich as fattening themselves for slaughter as a farmer would fatten a sheep to slaughter for meat, except these rich were fattening themselves.
- The “slaughter” to which the rich are going is the final judgment.
- For those who don’t know Jesus, the final judgment is a day of wrath and destruction.



# James 5:5; Ezekiel 16:49–50, 34:1–10

- The unrighteous – not based on works but on their saving relationship with Jesus.
- They are sent away to eternal punishment while the righteous are sent to eternal life (Matthew 25:31–46).
- God doesn't want anyone to go to eternal punishment; He desires all people to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4).



# Ask Kerby



ASK KERBY

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What is your biblical  
view about the Sabbath?



# John MacArthur

AUDIO SERMON

## **The Sabbath Question: The Nature of the Old Covenant**

📖 *Selected Scriptures* | 📄 90-223 | 📅 *September 26, 1999*





# Sabbath

- Genesis 2:1 says after creation, the Lord rested on the seventh day.
- There is no mention of a Sabbath day.
- The word “Sabbath” does not appear in Genesis 2.
- There was no institution of a Sabbath day there.



# Sabbath

- Exodus 20 - “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.”
- That’s the first time, instituted what we call the Sabbath.
- It is a part of the old covenant
- It was right in the middle of the Ten Commandments, and was a feature of the old covenant.



# Sabbath

- So, whenever the seventh day came along, two things could happen.
- The people would remember that this was the day that God rested, and they would remember, therefore, that God had created the entire universe in six days, and they would glorify God for such a majestic creation done in six days.



# Sabbath

- It was a day in which you did honor God.
- But when the Law came down, the Mosaic Law called upon them to keep the day holy, and drew their attention to their violations of the commandments of God.
- Time to do some hard examination and repent of your sins.
- It became a day of penitence.



# Sabbath

- Are we under Sabbath obligation in the church?
- There are some people who think we are (Seventh-day Adventists and Seventh-day baptists).
- Three issues: character of the new covenant, how Jesus treated the Sabbath, and the New Testament teaching on the church and the Sabbath.



# Sabbath

- The New Covenant - the Old Covenant exposed sin but does not save, while the New Covenant gives life.
- Jesus - is right in the transition between the old and the new. He's establishing His kingdom, and He establishes the New Covenant by His blood.
- Church - met on the first day of the week, the Lord's Day.



# Sabbath: Both Arguments



# Sabbath Observance

- Creation ordinance - Some believe the Sabbath is a creation ordinance, meaning it was established by God for all people, not just Jews, and therefore continues to be relevant for Christians.
- Continuity of Law - the Ten Commandments are moral law that continue to apply to Christians in the Church Age.



# Sunday Observance

- New Covenant - Christians are no longer under the Law.
- Resurrection - Christians in the early church and throughout history gathered on Sunday.
- Jesus - “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). Jesus also performed many miracles on the Sabbath.