

## Ecclesiastes 5:13-20 – A Grievous Evil and a Fitting Good

September 15, 2019 – Pastor Nick Neves

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Verses 13 and 15 describe a “grievous evil”, which is literally a \_\_\_\_\_ that, like a debilitating disease, so frequently effects the heart of man.

The specific evil which is so grievous is the tragic losses that one inevitably experiences when their \_\_\_\_\_ becomes their assurance and hope.

### - OUTLINE -

#### **Vss. 13-17 – It is a Grievous Evil to be deceived by the false allure of the idol ‘wealth’:**

An Example: A man who tragically trusted in wealth

A Principle: Life extends beyond our material existence

#### **Vss. 18-20 – There is a contrasting attitude that is good and fitting:**

Enjoy life for what it is, regardless of the station God has chosen to give you

#### THE EXAMPLE:

What does the man in this story pursue?

Why is it a foolish pursuit?

What does he lay aside in order to pursue it?

THE PRINCIPLE: Our wealth is only a temporary covering that may obscure our true identity, but when life on earth comes to an end, it will be stripped away exposing the enduring parts of who we are.

Job experienced losses even greater than the man in Solomon’s example. How does Job react differently?

#### THE RESOLUTION:

Enjoy whatever wealth God chooses to give to you, but do not put your \_\_\_\_\_ in it.

For the one who trusts in the Lord, all things are ours:

**1 Corinthians 3:21-23** – <sup>21</sup> So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, <sup>22</sup> whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, <sup>23</sup> and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.

God is sovereign over all things, including your lot in life. Receive what He has for you, and be open to the possibility that He might change that at any time... to increase the blessing OR the challenge.  
(see 1 Corinthians 7:19-24)

Reflection: Are you happy with God and what He has given to you?

Meditate on 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 this week as you remember that the hardships of this world cannot compare to the eternal weight of glory before us.