“Come Now, You Rich”

Intro: James is not addressing rich people in general, but very specifically those who are ____________ wealthy.

A. Notice, according to 1 Timothy 6, it is not the riches but the ____________ for riches that cause people to fall into temptation. It is not money but the ____________ of money that is a root of all sorts of evil.

1. Those who possess wealth are faced with the many difficult ____________ that are peculiar to wealth. This is why Jesus said, Luke 18:24-27, "... How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! 25 "For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 26 And they who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" 27 But He said, "The things impossible with men are possible with God."

2. Anyone who is ____________ of the wealthy or desires to get rich has no idea of the ____________ that come with it.

B. ____________ all rich.

1. First of all, beloved, if you have ____________, then no one has more than you!

2. ____________ speaking, we who live in these United States are rich.

C. At the beginning of chapter 4, James specifically addresses the sin of ____________ and ____________.

1. Following a call to ____________, James instructs us in the life of a repentant believer. If we have humbly repented before God, then it will ____________ the way we live.

   a. And, this is ____________, for faith that is not followed by right ____________ is dead.

James 5:1-6

I. Humble repentance before God brings us to a ____________ view of ____________.

   A. James says, “Come now!” That is to say, “Oh, come on, wake up, get real, ____________ you (greedy) rich ...”

      1. He tells the greedy rich that they should “__________ and howl!” Together these words call for the greedy rich to hysterically cry out loud with uncontrolled ____________!

      2. Miseries are coming ____________ the wicked wealthy.

II. James lists the ____________ of the greedy rich, thus revealing the reason for their ____________.

   A. In their greed they ____________ their riches.

      1. Your riches have ____________.
2. Your garments have become ____________ - ____________.

3. Your ____________ and your silver have ____________.
   a. Riches, like life are _____________. Someone owned them before us, and another will own them after us. It is as we read, 1 Tim 6:7, “For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.” This is why Proverbs 23:4-5 says, “Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, Cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is _____________. For wealth certainly makes itself wings, Like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.”

4. Their sinful hoard of riches will be a ____________ ____________ them, testifying of their sinful greed.
   a. Such a hoarding of material riches is especially appalling when we consider that “It is in the ____________ ____________ (referring to all time since Christ - while we anxiously await His return) that [they] have stored up [their] treasure!”

B. In their greed the wicked rich ____________ gain their wealth off the backs of the ____________.
   1. The pay that is withheld cries out to God as a testimony ____________ the greedy rich. And, the cries of the laborer who has been cheated is being heard by the Lord of ____________.

C. In their greed the wicked rich waste their wealth on selfish, unjustified, unrestrained, luxurious _____________.
   1. The greedy rich use their resources to unabashedly pursue their own depraved desires, rather than God’s ____________ _____________.

D. In their greed the wicked rich have gone so far as to even put men to _____________.
   1. James 2:6 says, “But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally ____________ you into court?” And 4:2, “You lust and do not have; so you commit ____________.”

Closing: Church, do you see how ____________ greed, lust, and the love of money is? Sin will take you where you never thought you would go! We need ____________!
   1. The truth is, there go you and I if not for the ____________ of God.

2. What shall we do? How shall we be saved from such terror? We must ____________ ourselves in the presence of God, ____________ of our sins. And, in faith in ____________ we must maintain this attitude of humble repentance that we might have a right godly view of wealth “for the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

Heritage Christian Fellowship
11104 Menaul, NE., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
505.323.0557
maxwell_timothy@hotmail.com