

Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT)

Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Matthew 6:24 (NLT)

No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

James 5:1-2 (NLT)

Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. ² Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags.

James 4:2-3 (ESV)

[2] ...You do not have, because you do not ask. [3] You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

James 5:3 (NLT)

Your gold and silver have become worthless. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This treasure you have accumulated will stand as evidence against you on the day of judgment.

**WHERE is OUR
Treasure**

James 5:1-6

James 1:1 (ESV)

James, a servant of God and of the Lord
Jesus Christ, **To the twelve tribes**
in the Dispersion: Greetings.

→ James is writing **ABOUT**
wicked wealthy unbelievers
not **TO** them

James may have **been** using the **corrosion** of gold and silver **as a symbol** of the **corrosive effects of greed** **on the human soul.**

HNT

They have killed them by **OVERWORKING** and **UNDERPAYING** them. The innocent had **no way to FIGHT Back**. To protest might result in further **brutality**, or the **loss** of their **job**.

→ There is a **PROPHETIC** sense
to these verses –
Judgment is Coming

Rich non-Christian landowners who were oppressing poor believers would not hear the letter read. But **Christian readers** would **learn from the judgment proclaimed on the rich** not to set too high a value on **wealth**.

James Declared Judgment on the **WEALTHY** as...

- an **ENCOURAGEMENT** to Christians who were Suffering
- a **WARNING** not to **ENVY** the Wealthy
- a **REMINDER** God will **AVENGE** the Injustice

Romans 12:19 (NIV)

Do **NOT** take **REVENGE**, my friends,
but leave room for **God's WRATH**,
for it is written:

It is mine to AVENGE;
I will repay, says the Lord.

→ There is a Difference between
SAVING and **HOARDING**

Luke 12:13-15 (NET)

...Watch out and guard yourself from

ALL types of GREED,

because one's life does not consist

in the **ABUNDANCE** of his **possessions.**

Antidote to **HOARDING**

LAB

- live **SURRENDERED** to God
- be Fully aware of God's **GRACE**
- be sensitive to the **NEEDS** of others
- keep **ETERNITY** firmly in view

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

But **seek FIRST His kingdom** and
His righteousness, and all these
things will be given to you as well.

Declaration Against the Wicked who Pursue Wealth...

- at **ALL COSTS**
- **DISHONESTLY**
- no matter who they **HURT**
- **IGNORING** God completely

Luke 12:20-21 (NLT)

But **God said** to him, ‘**You fool! You will die this very night.** Then who will get everything you worked for?’

²¹ “Yes, a person is a **fool to store up earthly wealth** but **NOT have a rich RELATIONSHIP with God.**

He is calling the unrighteous rich to mourn because of what awaits them in the final judgment. **Their materialistic focus places them in terrifying peril.**

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where **moth and rust destroy**, and where **thieves break in and steal**.²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your TREASURE is,
there **your Heart WILL BE** also.

→ You **CANNOT**

take it **WITH** You

1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV)

Command those who are rich in this present world **NOT TO BE arrogant NOR to put their HOPE in WEALTH,** which is so uncertain, but to **put their HOPE in God,** who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NIV)

Command them to do good, to

BE RICH in good deeds, and to
BE GENEROUS and willing to share.

¹⁹ In this way they will

lay up TREASURE for themselves
as a firm foundation for the coming age...

Psalm 115:1-3 (NIV)

- ¹ Not to us, **O LORD**, not to us but **to your name be the glory**, because of your love and faithfulness. ² Why do the nations say, "Where is their God?"
- ³ **Our God is in heaven; HE does whatever pleases HIM.**

Psalm 115:4-7 (NIV)

⁴ But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. ⁵ They have **mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see;**
⁶ they have **ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell;** ⁷ they **have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk;** nor can they utter a sound with their throats.

Psalm 115:8 (NIV)

Those who **MAKE** them
will be **LIKE** them,
and so will **ALL** who **TRUST** in them.

→ We become **LIKE** that which
we **WORSHIP** –

We become **LIKE** that over which
we **OBSESS**

We either **REVERE** the world and
are **CONFORMED** to the sinful patterns
of the world,
or we **REVERE GOD** and are
progressively **CONFORMED** into
His likeness.

T. Reinke

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

No one can serve two masters.

Either he will **hate** the one and **love** the other, or he will be **devoted** to the one and **despise** the other.

You cannot serve both God and Money.