

The Dangers and Joys of Money

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Affluenza – an unhealthy relationship with money.

The Golden Ghetto: The Psychology of Affluence
by Jessie O'Neill

Leland Ryken:

“Most Americans have at least a mild case of this deadly disease. Even if we are thankful for what we have, we often think about the things that we do not have and how to get them. This explains the sudden pang of discontent we feel when we realize that we cannot afford something we want to buy or the guilt we feel because we bought it anyway, and now we are in debt as a result.”

I. Money can make life more stressful.

1. The more you have, the more you want.

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v.10a - *He who loves money will not be satisfied with money.*

2. The more you have, the less you're satisfied.

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v.10 - He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income.

3. The more you have, the more people will come after it.

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v.11a - *When goods increase, they increase who eat them,*

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NIV - *As goods increase, so do those who consume them.*

4. The more you have, the more you realize it doesn't meet your real needs.

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v.11b - and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes?

5. The more you have, the more you have to worry about.

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v.12 - Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

6. The more you have, the more you can hurt yourself by holding on to it.

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Martin Luther: “God permits the very riches in which people trust to bring about the ruin of those who own them.”

7. The more you have, the more you have to lose.

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*v.14 - and those riches were lost in a bad venture.
And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in
his hand.*

8. The more you have, the more you'll leave behind.

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vv.15-16 - As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind?

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:21).

“We brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world”
(1 Timothy 6:7).

II. Money can make life miserable (v.17)

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v. 17 - Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

Derek Kidner: “If anything is worse than the addiction money brings, it is the emptiness it leaves.”

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Andrew Carnegie: “Millionaires seldom smile.”

III. Money can make life more enjoyable
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v.19 - Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God (v.19, NIV)

Leland Ryken:

Rather than always craving more, we are invited to be happy with less because we are satisfied with God.

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 Tim.6:17)