

# THE RICHES OF CONTENTMENT

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—February 18th, 2024

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12 (ESV)

## INTRODUCTION

Sin is often found, not in our actions, but in the intentions behind our actions.

**Genesis 6:5–[5]** *The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

Money will be a blessing to us if we find joy with whatever the Lord provides for us.

## THE VANITY OF WEALTH

### 1) Oppression

*God, the Supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil magistrates to be under him, over the people, for his own glory and the public good... (WCF 23.1)*

### 2) Inconvenience

**Proverbs 15:16–[16]** *Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.*

### 3) Volatile

**Proverbs 11:28–[28]** *Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.*

**Psalm 62:10–[10]** *Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them.*

**Psalm 62:1–[1]** *For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.*

**Ephesians 1:7–8–[7]** *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [8] which he lavished upon us...*

**Colossians 2:3–[3]** *in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

### 4) Unfulfilling

## THE RICHES OF JOY

For the preacher, the remedy for the vanity of wealth is not poverty, but joy.

**Psalm 35:27–[27]** *Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, “Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of his servant!”*

**James 1:17–[17]** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

Joy has a source; which is God!

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**1 Chronicles 29:12–[12]** *Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.*

How do we receive wealth with joy recognizing God as the source of all riches?

### 1) Contentment

Wealth is never enough, but God is enough.

**Philippians 4:12–13–[12]** *I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. [13] I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

### 2) Generosity

**1 Timothy 6:17–18–[17]** *As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. [18] They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share...*

Our generosity must be a response to the generosity of God.

**Romans 8:32–[32]** *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*