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JOINING US TODAY!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Financial Peace University

Take control of your money with FPU. This nine-lesson course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you.

Begins June 18, 2019, 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Cost is \$100 per family, which includes class, workbook and access to online tools for a year. Childcare is provided if you register prior to Monday, June 17th.

### Join Our Weekly Email Update

Sign up using a Connect Card located under the seat in front of you or by going to [ourelement.org](http://ourelement.org).

### Gospel Community (GC)

GC's are our primary organizing structure here at Element. It's where we see Disciple Making take place when we orient our lives together, on and around the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is where we commit to grow as a disciple, disciple others, and make disciples; to share our lives so they are visible and accessible.

DISCIPLE: A disciple is one who increasingly submits their life to the all-empowering Lordship of Jesus Christ.

JOIN: Connect with a Group by emailing [connect@ourelement.org](mailto:connect@ourelement.org) or visiting the Welcome Center.




## Week 15: Enjoyment of Vapor *Ecclesiastes 5:13-20*


### TODAY'S VERSES:



Ecclesiastes 5:19  
Ecclesiastes 5:12

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20  
Matthew 6:21-24

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# Week 15: Enjoyment of Vapor

## *Ecclesiastes 5:13-20*

Today we are in week 15 of our look through the book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon keeps steering us back to our understanding of what is truly meaningful in life. It is not what we produce (though it can add to it), it is what we receive from the hand of God. Satisfaction doesn't come from things, it comes from our God who can (and does) bless us with the ability to enjoy things. Today Solomon is going to continue his look at money and how we use it (or it uses us).

**What are your 3 favorite ways to spend money?**

**What do you WISH was your 3 favorite ways to spend money?**

We all have ideals in our lives that we say we adhere to (saving, investing), but our values are what we actually do (go into debt). One of the reasons that the bible (and Ecclesiastes) speaks so often of money and generosity is that it helps us not to be so controlled by it. The Bible doesn't make distinctions in the amount of money people have and their worth, it differentiates between righteous and unrighteous. Ecclesiastes 5 opens up with an understanding of worshipping God first. Our meaning doesn't come from how much we acquire, the good news of the Gospel is that our worth is found in what God says, and so proper worship reminds and reinforces that in us.

**Read Ecclesiastes 5:13-17.**

**What things have you held on to in your life that have hurt you in the long run?**

**If there is something in your life that you could take with you when you die what would it be?**

**Why? What do you think that thing would give you?**

What Solomon speaks about are 4 different classifications of people in regard to money:

- Unrighteous Rich – People who exploit, defraud, and oppress others for gain.

- Righteous Rich – Those who take what money they have and invest in others. People who make smart decisions about what to buy into and support.
- Righteous Poor – Those who work hard and well, but many times don't make much. They will do an honest job for honest pay.
- Unrighteous Poor – Those who are poor because they either won't work...or they consume everything and won't learn how to save.

In the Scriptures the issue of rich and poor is not an issue of money, it is an issue of righteous vs unrighteous.

**Read Ecclesiastes 5:18-20.**

**What is a "lot in life?"**

**What would you say is your understanding of your "lot in life?"**

**How hard is it to accept your "lot in life?"**

In Matthew 6:21-24 Jesus will tell us that our money, how we spend it, how we chase it, usually follows our hearts. Jesus will then go on to remind us that it is impossible to worship both God and money; He tells us this because there is no difference between what our hearts will treasure and what we will chase after.

**What things does your heart chase after?**

**What does/could it mean to treasure God with your life?**

Money, like everything else, is a neutral thing that can be used for either good or evil, but as 1 Timothy 6:10 reminds us, "the love of money" is a tempting trap that leads to ruin and despair. Today people who say they hate money are still focused on money...and those who love money are focused on money. We must become a people who don't love or hate money, wealth, or possessions, we must love God because He first loved us. We must come to a place where we love Him above all things.

**How can we help one another to focus on God's love for us first, rather than on money or things?**