



Series: Seasons in the Psalms, Reflections on God and the Significance of the Soul

Passage: Psalm 49

Title: The Futility of Wealth in the Pursuit of Everlasting Life

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper 1/25/2026

Discussion Starter – How would your life change if you suddenly became wealthy? What does it require for you to be content? How does a firm assurance of life after death affect the value you place in money and temporal possessions?

Read Psalm 49:1-4

1. To whom is this Psalm addressed? What type of teaching are these verses introducing?
2. Why is this psalm called a “dark saying”? What does the psalmist disclose here that many people misunderstand about wealth?

Read Psalm 49:5-14

3. What fear is the psalmist free from?
4. What comfort does wealth provide for those who hold it? What can wealth not provide? (Matt 16:24-26)
 - a. What are other things that cannot be purchased by money?
 - b. Into what pursuits do you invest your time, money, and care that are ultimately futile?
5. Why is the pursuit of wealth a trap to both the wise and the foolish?
 - c. How does money provide a measuring scale to compare one life against another? Is it a meaningful scale?
 - d. What other temporal standards of evaluation do people use for comparison that ignore God as our eternal Judge?
6. What is meant by their “inner thoughts”? How do our behaviors reveal our values, beliefs, and philosophies?
7. What steps do people take to overcome the universality of death, and seek to promote their own legacy? (verses 10-11)?

Read Psalm 49:15-20

8. Who is the only One who can redeem a person? What has He provided?
9. The rich carry nothing away into their death, verse 17. What can we do in this life that has impact and carries on into eternity? 2 Cor 4:16-18
10. Who is the “he/they” of verses 16-20? How is he different from the one redeemed and received in verse 15?
 - e. How can wealth and a biblical world view be used to positively affect the kingdom of God here today and your eternity?