

Collecting But Infecting

Description

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Ecclesiastes 5:9-20

From baseball cards to Beanie Babies, collectible items have found a place of welcome in many homes. Some are inexpensive and fun, others interesting and informing, still others historic and rare. The value of a collectible item may only be in the eye of the beholder, but, if enough eyes share the same vision, its worth could climb significantly beyond its original cost. When it does, collecting becomes more about commerce.

How easy it is for one's earnings to become an avenue for evil, when what we own begins to take ownership of us! The writer of Ecclesiastes warned that "whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income" (v. 10). Wealth hoarded for the happiness of its owner rarely accomplishes it, rather it leads to frustration and discontent.

Viewing wealth as God's gift to be used for His purposes gives meaning to our work. Generosity leads to gladness of heart and the good of those whose lives we touch with grace and hope for their tomorrow.

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