

FBBC  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
SUBANG JAYA

GAMMA21

GAMMA  
SERIES

BOOK  
OF

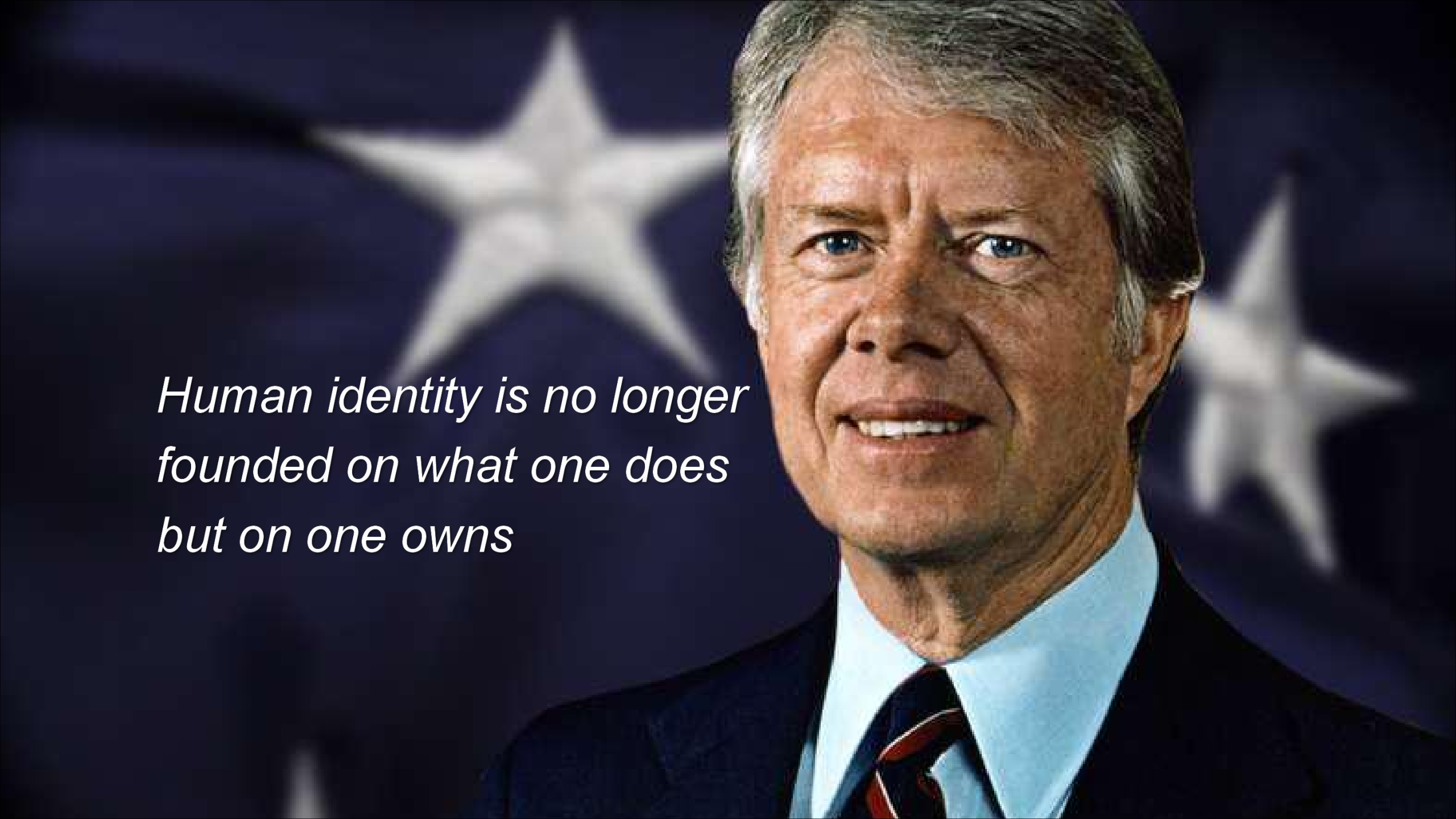
# JAMES

A FAITH THAT WORKS

Study 15

The Perils of Materialism

James 5:1-6

A close-up portrait of Bill Clinton, looking slightly to the right with a faint smile. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a dark tie with red and white stripes. The background is dark blue with large, out-of-focus white stars.

*Human identity is no longer  
founded on what one does  
but on one owns*

# THE PERILS OF MATERIALISM

- A. God will hear the cries of the poor and hold the rich accountable for their oppression of the poor
- B. Their ill gotten wealth will be lost
- C. Their wealth becomes a liability on judgment day
- D. The pursuit of wealth is a deadly distraction in the last days
- E. Materialism dehumanizes the rich and oppresses the poor

**A. GOD WILL HEAR THE CRIES OF THE POOR  
AND HOLD THE RICH ACCOUNTABLE FOR  
THEIR OPPRESSION OF THE POOR**

James 5:1-6 Come now, you rich, weep and howl  
for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2  
Your riches have rotted and your garments are  
moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have  
corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence  
against you and will eat your flesh like fire.  
You have laid up treasure in the last days.

# AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE

Rhetorical

Come now, you rich,  
weep and howl

Rich land owners who  
are believers

Oppressed believers



4b. cries of the harvesters have reached the  
ears of the Lord of hosts.  
6 You have condemned and murdered the  
righteous person. He does not resist you.



*THE RICH OPPRESS THE POOR  
THE POOR CRY OUT TO GOD*

James 5:4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

# OPPRESSION CAST AS MURDER

James 5:6 You have condemned and murdered  
the righteous person. He does not resist  
you.

## OLD TESTAMENT BACKGROUND

Isaiah 1:15 (ESV) When you spread out your hands,  
I will hide my eyes from you;  
even though you make many prayers, I will not  
listen; your hands are full of blood.



## OLD TESTAMENT BACKGROUND

Isaiah 1:21 (ESV) 21 How the faithful city has become a whore, she who was full of justice!

Righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers

# CORRUPTION=THIEVES

Isaiah 1:23 (ESV) 23 Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves.

Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts.

They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them.

# MALAYSIA LOST RM47B IN GDP VALUE TO CORRUPTION LAST YEAR – DPM BERNAMA DEC 17 2018

*Bribery and corrupt activities amongst private entities*

*Doubled in 2  
years*

*14% in 2014 to  
30% in 2016*

*PricewaterhouseCoopers report in*



*GRACE LEE HOOI  
YEAN,*

*HEAD OF MONASH UNIVERSITY  
MALAYSIA DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMICS*

*Corruption is no doubt Malaysia's most critical systematic issue that can lead to uneven wealth distribution, compromising the quality of education and healthcare, leading to an overall lower standard of living for Malaysians," Al Jazeera*

*25/11/2022*

# THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER

Leviticus 19:13 (ESV) You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

## *CASH FLOW ISSUE*

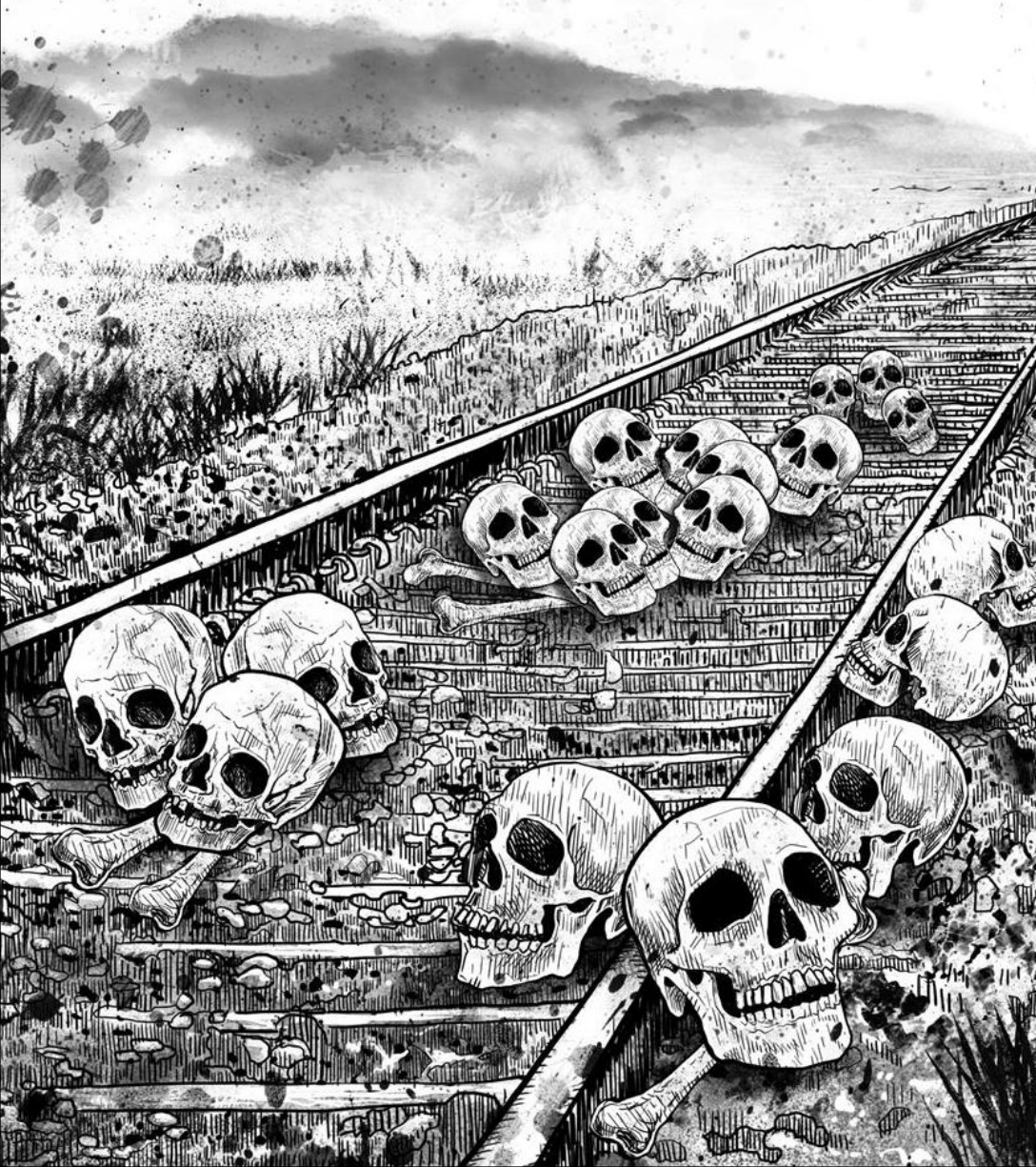
Deuteronomy 24:15 (ESV) You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.

Personal sin

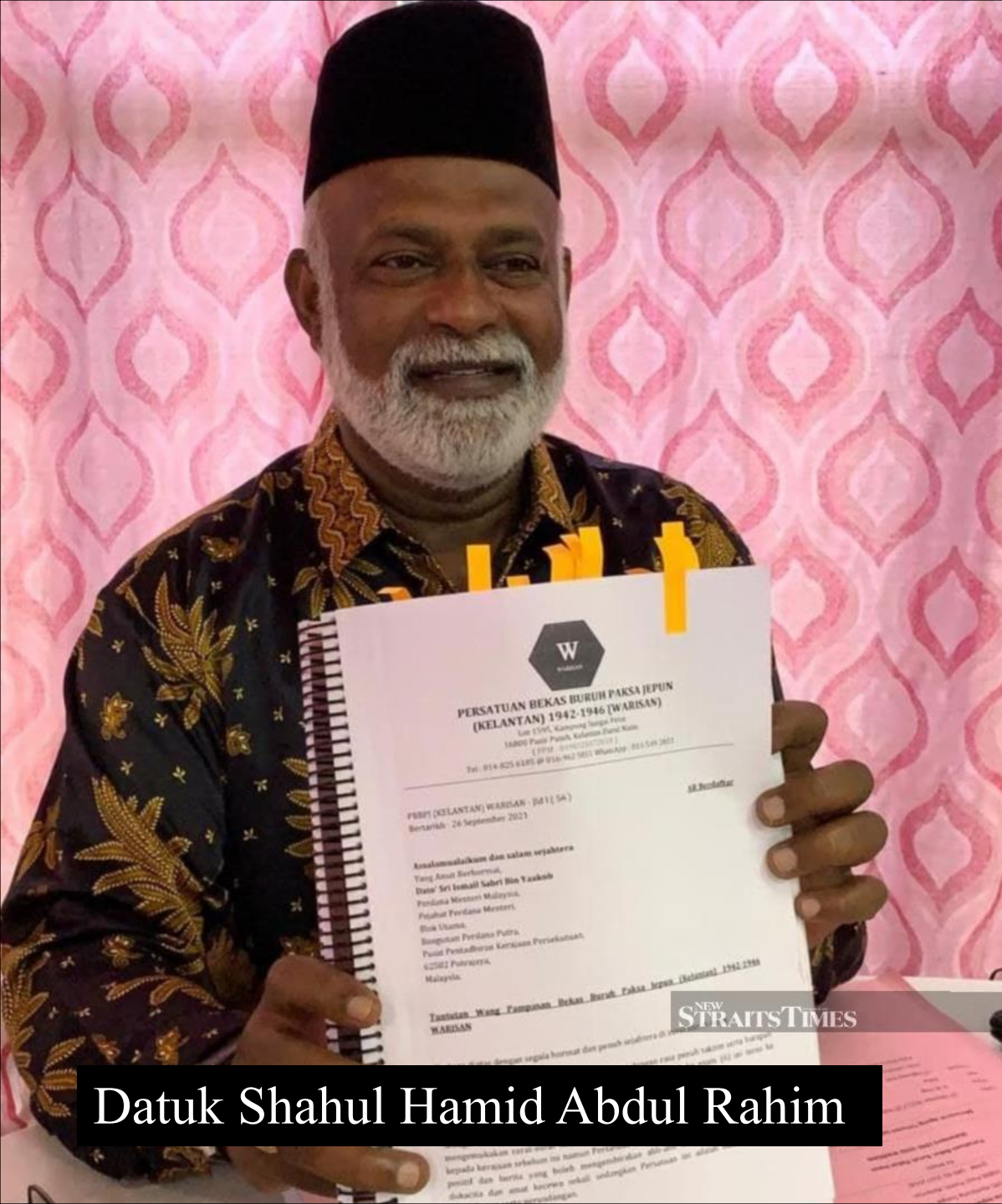


# DEATH RAILWAY

1942 AND 1946.







Datuk Shahul Hamid Abdul Rahim

# KELANTAN'S FORMER JAPANESE FORCED LABOURER ASSOCIATION (WARISAN)

- families and relatives of the 30,000 Malaysians who died in Thailand during the Japanese Occupation, had been waiting for the payments for nearly 60 years
- In 2013, a local Malay-daily reported that the Japanese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur had confirmed that the money was handed to the Malaysian government in 2004
- Many of the labourers have died, but few are still around, who are in their 90s and most of them are bedridden

# INSTITUTIONALIZED INJUSTICE



## *GOD WILL ALWAYS DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY*

James 5:1-4 (ESV) Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 ..... 4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

## *CAIN AND ABEL*

Genesis 4:10–11 And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. 11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.

# THE PERILS OF MATERIALISM

- A. God will hear the cries of the poor and hold the rich accountable for their oppression of the poor
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- E. Materialism dehumanizes the rich and oppresses the poor

## THEIR JUDGMENT: CORROSION OF THEIR WEALTH

James 5:1–6 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.

# HOMONYMOUS

*words that have different meanings but are pronounced the same or spelled the same or both.*

“ios”

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graph TD; A["'ios'"] --> B[Rusted]; A --> C[Poison];
```

Rusted

Poison

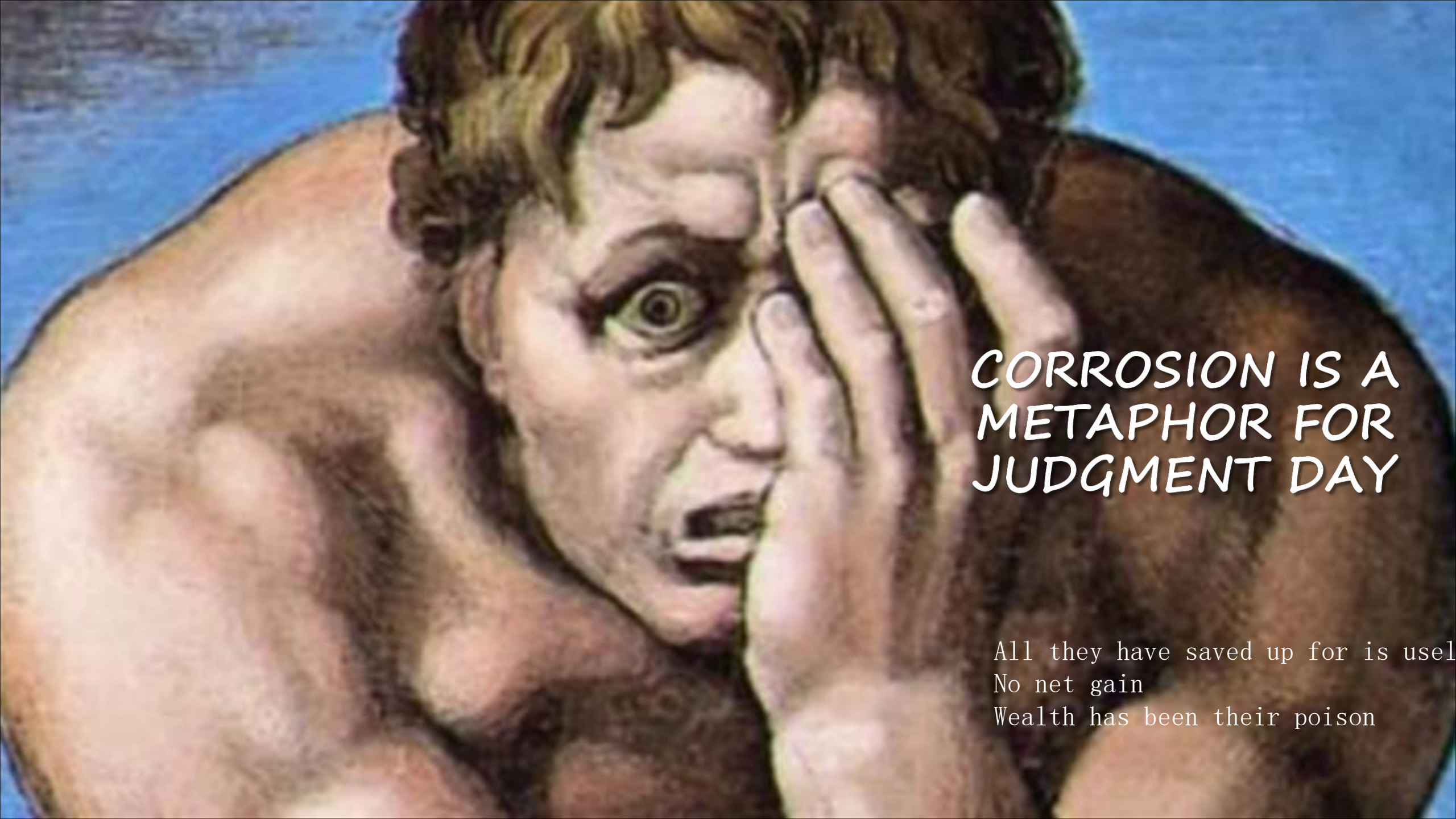
James 5: 3Your gold and silver have corroded

James 3:8 It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison

Their wealth will be their poison







**CORROSION IS A  
METAPHOR FOR  
JUDGMENT DAY**

All they have saved up for is used  
No net gain  
Wealth has been their poison

# WEALTH DOES NOT LAST

Rich should be embarrassed spending all their time on useless pursuits

James 1:9–11 (ESV) Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

## *CORROSION- LOSS OF PERCEIVED VALUE*

Jeremiah 2:11 (ESV) Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods?

But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.

## *POISON THEIR LIVES: ADDICTION*

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (ESV) He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.

## THE POISON OF MATERIALISM

1 Timothy 6:9–10 (ESV) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

**TIM KASSER, PHD,**  
PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY KNOX COLLEGE  
GALESBURG, ILLINOIS,

Specializing in materialism and well-being.

Summarised Research 2014  
American Ass Psychologists

- Competitive,
- Manipulative
- Selfish ways,
- Less empathetic

# PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS



- Lower levels of well-being,
- Less pro-social interpersonal behavior,
- Spending problems and debt ...
- Unpleasant emotions, depression and anxiety,
- Stomachaches and headaches
- Lack of satisfaction



*Bidirectional Dynamics of  
Materialism and Loneliness: Not  
Just a Vicious Cycle*

Rik Pieters

Journal of Consumer Research

2,500 people for six years

**MATERIALISM FOSTERS  
LONELINESS**



*materialism fosters social isolation;  
isolation fosters materialism*



# ICELAND

2008-2011

More  
Materialistic

Well  
being

Well  
being

Less  
Materialistic

## ECONOMIC CRISIS



# PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

–Rank  
Jobs, money and status vs self-  
acceptance, fellow feeling and  
belonging on the other

Re-tested—  
Materialistic –less happy—  
mental disorders  
Less Materialistic --happier

18 yr old

30 yr old



Church program - away  
from spending  
Move towards Sharing and  
saving



Materialism



Self  
Esteem

# THE PERILS OF MATERIALISM

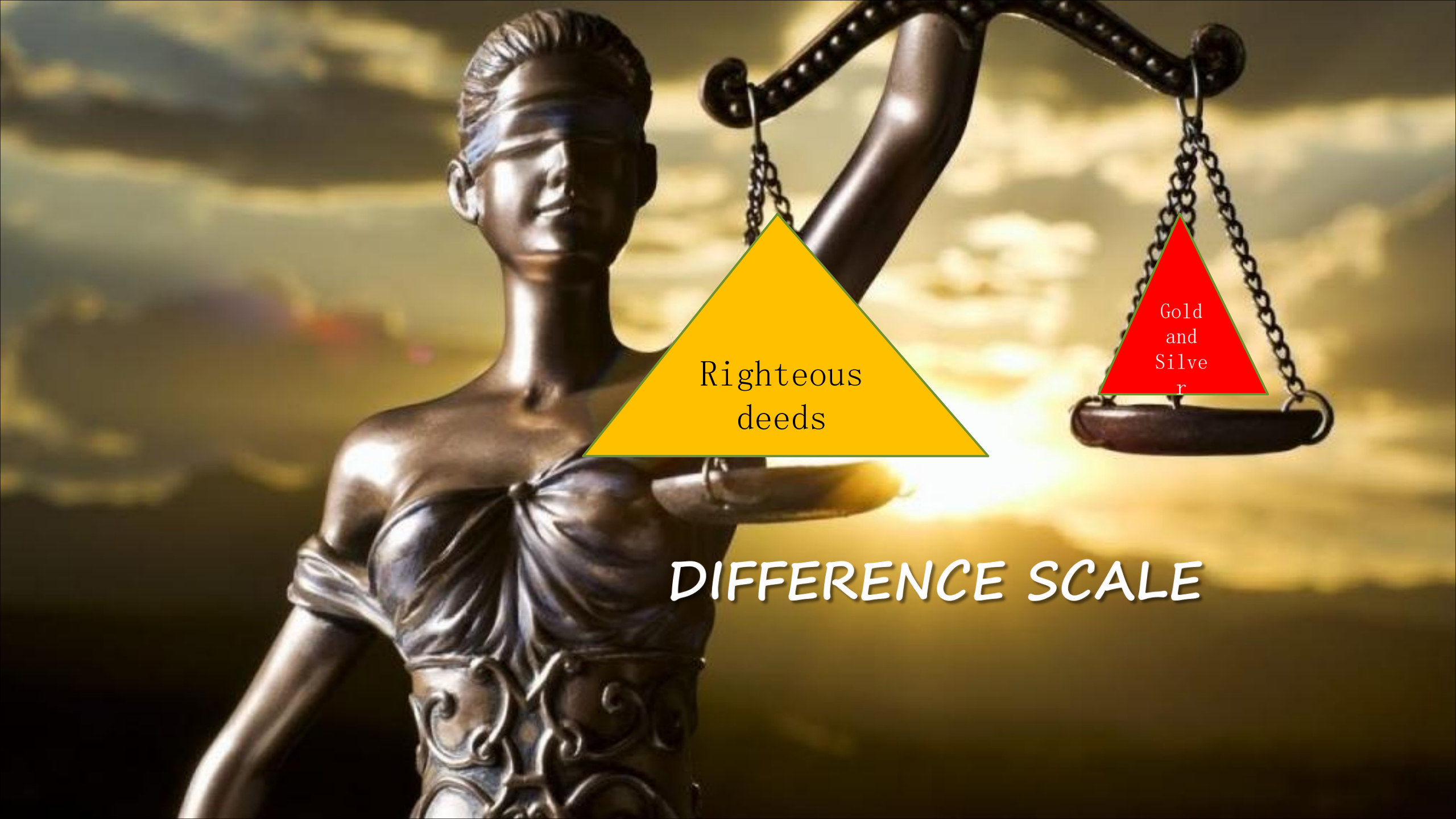
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## C. THEIR WEALTH BECOMES A LIABILITY ON JUDGMENT DAY

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## WHOLE OF LIFE SQUANDERED

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”



Righteous  
deeds

Gold  
and  
Silver

**DIFFERENCE SCALE**

LORRAINE SCHWARTZ

ARTUS

LORRAINE SCHWARTZ

ARTUS

#KID #experience!#







*US Jury Shown Invoice Of Rosmah's RM97M Pink Diamond Which Najib Claims She Never Received*

James 5:3 (ESV) Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.....

James 5:5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.



# THE PERILS OF MATERIALISM

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## D. THE PURSUIT OF WEALTH IS A DEADLY DISTRACTION IN THE LAST DAYS

James 5:3 (ESV) Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.....

James 5:5 (ESV) You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence.

# JAPAN SURRENDERS IN 1945



Ecclesiastes 2:11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.



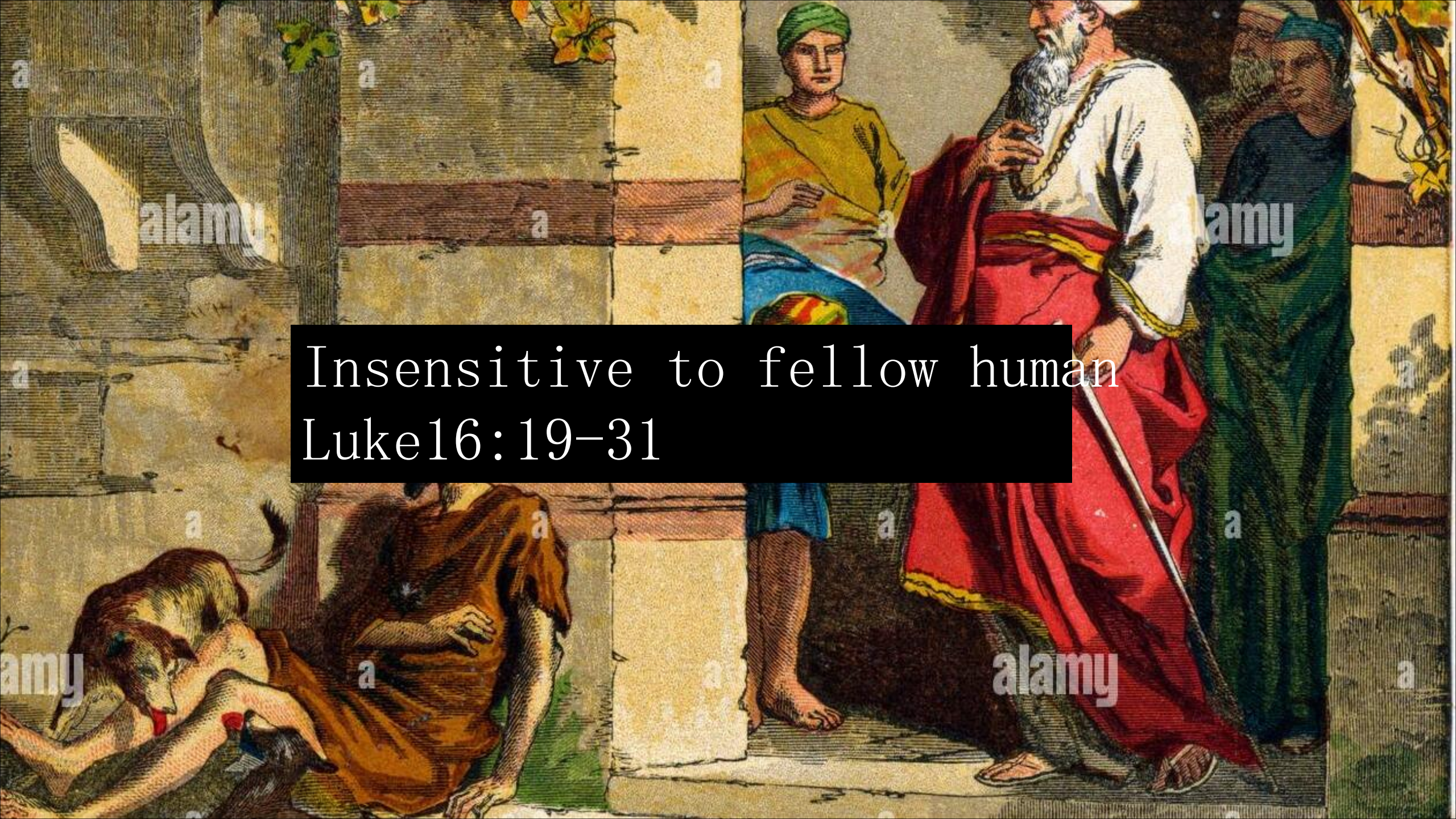


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## E. MATERIALISM DEHUMANIZES THE RICH AND OPPRESSES THE POOR

James 5:5-6 (ESV) You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.



In insensitive to fellow human  
Luke 16:19-31

*God created us to love people and use things, but materialists love things and use people.*

*Materialism is first and foremost a matter of the heart.*

*Randy Alcorn*

# RICH OPPRESS THE POOR

Amos 2:6 (ESV) 6 Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Israel,  
and for four, I will not revoke the  
punishment,  
because they sell the righteous for silver,  
and the needy for a pair of sandals

Romans 1:21–23 (ESV) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Cease to be truly human





Good things happen



Bad things happen



Base level of happiness

Time

THERE IS NO  
CORRELATION  
BETWEEN  
CONSUMPTION  
AND HAPPINESS

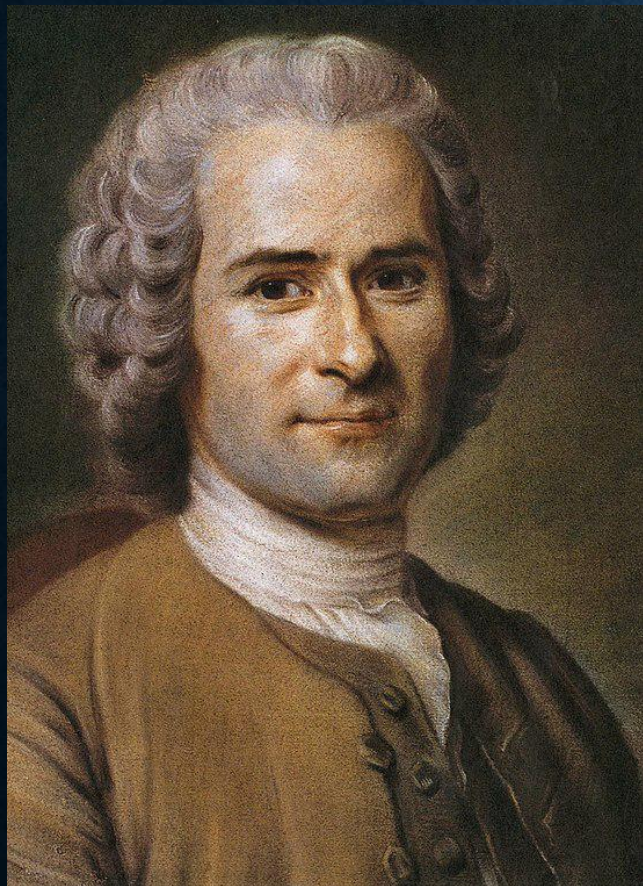
# Consumption and Happiness

in the United States



# JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

1754 DISCOURSE ON INEQUALITY



*Since these conveniences by becoming habitual had almost entirely ceased to be enjoyable, and at the same time degenerated into true needs, it became much more cruel to be deprived of them than to possess them was sweet, and men were unhappy to lose them without being happy to possess*