

# “THE BOOK OF PROVERBS”

## Lesson 4 - Proverbs Wisdom Regarding Money

### INTRODUCTION

1. People often have conflicting ideas about **money**...
  - a. Some say that it is sinful to be rich; others, that it is a virtue to be poor
  - b. Many think that money provides the ultimate security
2. The Bible says a great deal about money...
  - a. It speaks about earning and spending, saving and giving
  - b. It even warns about wasting our money
3. The **Book of Proverbs** in particular discusses issues related to money...
  - a. Such as wealth and poverty
  - b. Such as generosity and greed

[What wisdom can be gleaned from Proverbs concerning money? Let's first consider what is said regarding...]

### I. WEALTH AND POVERTY

#### A. REGARDING WEALTH..

1. Wealth does have its advantages
  - a. A degree of security - **Proverbs 10:15; 18:11**; e.g., **13:8**
  - b. Companionship of 'friends' - **Proverbs 14:20; 19:4,6-7**
  - c. Power or influence - **Proverbs 22:7**
  - d. The ability to speak more freely - **Proverbs 18:23**
2. But wealth does not Provide everything
  - a. It does not deliver us from death - **Proverbs 10:2; 11:4**
  - b. Those who trust in their riches will fall - **Proverbs 11:28**
3. The acquisition of wealth
  - a. Must be gained honestly, such as through labor - **Proverbs 13:11**
  - b. Best if by labor, not inherited - **Proverbs 20:21**
  - c. Best if gained gradually, not with haste - **Proverbs 28:20,22**
  - d. Wealth acquired unscrupulously is temporary and bitter  
– **Proverbs 20:17; 21:5-6; 28:8**
4. Keeping wealth in perspective
  - a. Do not overwork to be rich - **Proverbs 23:4**
  - b. Riches easily disappear - **Proverbs 23:5**

**-- Wealth can be blessing, but it can easily become a curse; wisdom makes the difference!**

**B. REGARDING POVERTY...**

1. Some are poor because of circumstances beyond their control
  - a. The greed of others - **Proverbs 30:14**
  - b. Usury and extortion - **Proverbs 28:8**
2. Others are poor because of their own sinful conduct
  - a. Laziness - **Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:4; 14:23; 20:13; 24:30-34**
  - b. Refusing to heed correction - **Proverbs 13:18**
  - c. Pleasure seeking - **Proverbs 21:17**
  - d. Drunkenness, gluttony - **Proverbs 23:21**
  - e. Wasting time on frivolous things - **Proverbs 12:11; 28:19**

**-- Poverty is not always self-inflicted, but in many cases it is!**

[Poverty also comes from other causes (natural disasters, God's chastisement, persecution, even voluntary choice). But as most Christians today are blessed with relative wealth, let's now consider what wisdom can be gleaned from Proverbs regarding the use of our money...]

**II. GENEROSITY AND GREED**

**A. REGARDING GENEROSITY...**

1. The expression of generosity
  - a. Toward the needy (giving to the poor) - **Proverbs 28:27**
  - b. Toward the Lord (honoring Him with our first fruits) – **Proverbs 3:9**
2. The benefits of generosity
  - a. Natural benefits (the inherent joy of giving) - **Proverbs 11:17; 14:21**
  - b. Divine benefits (the blessing of the Lord) - **Proverbs 3:10; 11:24-25; 19:17**

**-- For true happiness, with the Lord as our Benefactor, we must be generous**

**B. REGARDING GREED...**

1. The qualities of greed
  - a. Insatiable desires (like a leech) - **Proverbs 30:15-16**
  - b. Laziness - **Proverbs 21:25-26**
  - c. Hypocrisy - **Proverbs 23:6-8**
2. The danger of greed

- a. Troubles one's self - **Proverbs 1:19**
- b. Troubles one's family - **Proverbs 15:27**

**-- To avoid misery, for ourselves and others, we must not be greedy**

## **CONCLUSION**

1. With the aid of the Book of Proverbs, we can have wisdom regarding...
  - a. Wealth and poverty
  - b. Generosity and greed
2. With the blessing of the Lord, we can experience both...
  - a. Wealth that comes from honest labor
  - b. Generosity that sings from a merciful heart

Certainly there is no place for arrogance and abuse when we have been materially blessed:

**The rich and the poor have this in common, The LORD is the maker of them all. - Proverbs 22:2**

**He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy. - Proverbs 14:31**

**MAY THE LORD GIVE US THE WISDOM AND GRACE TO USE OUR WEALTH PROPERLY...!**