
Proverbs
Seek Wisdom
Find Life



Wealth and Poverty

“I like to think that if God gave me a boatload of money, I could do an enormous amount of good for the kingdom.

This has been a point of disagreement between me and the Lord for some years now.”

-Doug Wilson



Proverbs
Seek Wisdom
Find Life

Wisdom is Better than Wealth

- **Wisdom is superior to anything else you might desire**

- Proverbs 3:13–15 - Blessed is a person who finds wisdom, and one who obtains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver, and her produce better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire compares with her.



Wisdom is Better than Wealth

- **Wisdom is God's path to wealth**

- Proverbs 8:18–21- Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold; and my yield better than choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice, to endow those who love me with wealth, that I may fill their treasuries.



Wisdom is Better than Wealth

- **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom .. even financial wisdom**

- Proverbs 15:16 - Better is a little with the fear of the Lord
  Than great treasure, and turmoil with the treasure.





"When someone undertakes to make a living the first thing to do is not to get money, it is to get wisdom. Do you know what your doing and why? Do you know who you are? Settle your identity in Christ before turning to the desk, or the workbench, or wherever your station might be."

- Doug Wilson



Wisdom is Better than Wealth

- **God will have the right "financial plan" for you**
  - Give it away - Mark 10:21
  - Give half away - Luke 19:8
  - Be blessed and bless others- Nehemiah 8:10



Wealth is a Blessing

- Proverbs 10:22 - It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it.
- Proverbs 22:4 - The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life.
- Proverbs 15:6 - Great wealth is in the house of the righteous, but trouble is in the income of the wicked.



Wealth is a Blessing

- **Wealth is no guarantee of virtue… or vice.**

  In 1932 and 1933, millions of Ukrainians were killed in the Holodomor, a man-made famine engineered by the Soviet government of Joseph Stalin. The primary victims of the Holodomor (literally "death inflicted by starvation") were rural farmers and villagers, who made up roughly 80 percent of Ukraine's population in the 1930s. While it is impossible to determine the precise number of victims of the Ukrainian genocide, most estimates by scholars range from roughly 3.5 million to 7 million (with some estimates going higher). The most detailed demographic studies estimate the death toll at 3.9 million. -https://cla.umn.edu/chgs/holocaust-genocide-education/resource-guides/holodomor



Wealth is a Blessing

- 1 Timothy 6:10 - For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

- Prov 11:28 - One who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like the green leaf.

- Prov 15:6 - In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but trouble befalls the income of the wicked. *(RSV)*



Wealth is a Blessing

- **Seek Godly wealth, in God's way**
- Prov 10:22 - It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it.



How to Get Wealth

- Prov 22:3 - A prudent person sees evil and hides himself, but the naive proceed, and pay the penalty.

- Prov 3:9-10 - Honor the Lord from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.



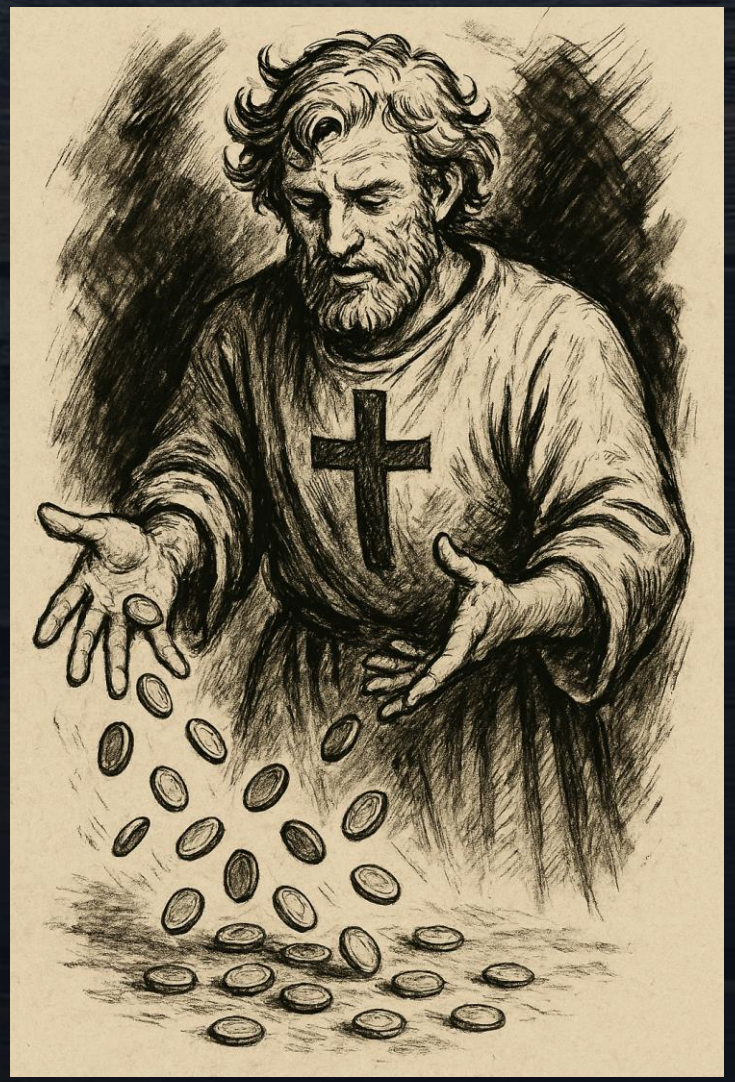
How to Get Wealth

- Prov 11:24-26 - There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in poverty. A generous person will be prosperous, and one who gives others plenty of water will himself be given plenty. One who withholds grain, the people will curse him, but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.

- Matt 6:3 - But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,



“a man there was, though some did count him mad, the more he cast away the more he had.”
— John Bunyan,



Proverbs
Seek Wisdom
Find Life

How to Get Wealth

Diligence Over Laziness

- Proverbs 6:6–11 – The ant prepares diligently; laziness leads to poverty.
- Proverbs 10:4 – "A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich."
- Proverbs 13:4 – The diligent are richly supplied; the sluggard craves without gain.
- Proverbs 14:23 – All hard work brings profit; mere talk leads to poverty.
- Proverbs 20:13 – Love not sleep… stay awake and you'll have bread.
- Proverbs 21:5 – "The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance…"
- Proverbs 24:27 – Prepare your work in the field before building your house.
- Proverbs 27:23–24 – Know the condition of your flocks; riches don't last forever.
- Proverbs 28:19 – "Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread…"



How to Get Wealth

Stewardship, Planning, and Patience

- Proverbs 13:11 – "Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it."
- Proverbs 21:20 – Wise men store treasure and oil; fools consume all they have.
- Proverbs 28:20 – A faithful person will abound with blessings.

How to Get Wealth

Avoid Greed, Schemes, and Exploitation

- Proverbs 28:8 – Gaining wealth by interest or unjust profit ends up benefiting others.
- Proverbs 22:16 – Oppressing the poor or giving to the rich to gain wealth leads to poverty.
- Proverbs 28:22 – "A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him."
- Proverbs 23:4–5 – Do not wear yourself out to get rich; riches fly away.



How to Get Wealth

Summary Principles from Proverbs

- Work diligently and consistently.
- Make plans, track your resources, and think long-term.
- Be patient—avoid shortcuts or shady deals.
- Use self-control: don't consume all you earn.
- Honor God first; wealth gained rightly brings peace (Prov 3:9–10, 10:22).



The Righteous Poor

- Poverty is not a curse
  - A curse in Scripture implies divine judgment, not simply hardship or lack.

- Proverbs 16:8 - Better is a little with righteousness than great income with injustice.

- Proverbs 19:1 - Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than a person who is perverse in speech and is a fool.

- Proverbs 15:16 - Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure, and turmoil with the treasure.



The Righteous Poor

- **Lack of blessing can be a training tool from God**
    - God may use poverty to discipline, refine, or humble His people. It can teach dependence, trust, and simplicity.

- Phil 4:12 - I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.



The Righteous Poor

- **Suffering can be to glorify God**
  - Some suffering, including poverty, exists not to be removed, but to reveal God's strength in our weakness.

- John 9:3 – Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

- 2 Corinthians 12:7 – …for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!



The Righteous Poor

- **Do Not Judge the Poor**
  - We must not equate wealth with virtue or poverty with failure.
  - God sees the heart. Many of the poor walk in deep faith and generosity (cf. Luke 21:1–4).

- **If You Are Poor, Trust God Deeply**
  - Poverty can become a spiritual advantage—a place to experience God's nearness.
  - "Blessed are the poor in spirit…" (Matt 5:3)
  - Use the season to practice faith, gratitude, contentment, and community dependence.



The Righteous Poor

- **Be Content with God's Provision**
  - Contentment isn't resignation—it's trust.
  - Prov 30:8-9 - Keep deception and lies far from me, give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion, so that I will not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the Lord?" and that I will not become impoverished and steal, and profane the name of my God.
  - As long as your poverty isn't self-inflicted (via laziness, greed, etc.), receive what God provides with peace.



Avoiding Poverty

- Proverbs 28:19 - One who works his land will have plenty of food, but one who follows empty pursuits will have plenty of poverty.
- Proverbs 21:17 - One who loves pleasure will become a poor person; one who loves wine and oil will not become rich.
- Proverbs 13:18 - Poverty and shame will come to one who neglects discipline, but one who complies with rebuke will be honored.



Avoiding Poverty

- Proverbs 28:22 - A person with an evil eye hurries after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.

- Proverbs 22:16 - One who oppresses the poor to make more for himself, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

Avoiding Poverty

- Poverty is not always your fault, but it can be.
- Proverbs warns us that poor character, poor habits, and poor decisions can lead to material loss and shame.




Proverbs
Seek Wisdom
Find Life