



What Does Proverbs Say About: Gold & Silver

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What is truly valuable?

Throughout human history, people have searched for treasure. Ancient kings built kingdoms around gold. Explorers crossed oceans seeking riches. Nations have fought wars over silver, precious metals, and the wealth hidden beneath the earth. Gold and silver have always represented security, power, influence, and success.

Even today, we measure value by what something costs. We ask, “What is it worth?” We look at homes, investments, possessions, and retirement accounts. We associate wealth with stability and comfort.

But the book of Proverbs challenges us with a different question:

What is truly valuable in the eyes of God?

Proverbs does not condemn wealth. It does not say gold and silver are evil. Scripture teaches that God is the giver of every good gift, and throughout the Bible, faithful people possessed wealth. Abraham had great possessions. Job was blessed abundantly. Solomon himself was one of the wealthiest people who ever lived.

The problem is not having treasures. The problem is trusting in treasures.

The danger is not owning gold and silver. The danger is allowing gold and silver to own us.

The wisdom of Proverbs teaches that there is something more valuable than precious metals. There is a treasure that cannot be stolen, cannot be lost in a market crash, cannot be destroyed by time, and cannot be taken away by death. That treasure is wisdom from God.

Proverbs 16:16 declares: “How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen, rather than silver.”

God’s Word turns our understanding of value upside down. The world says gold is priceless. God says wisdom is worth more.

Today, let us consider five truths from Proverbs:

1. Wisdom is more valuable than gold and silver.
2. Wisdom must be sought like hidden treasure.
3. The value of wisdom is seen in the decisions we make.
4. Gold and silver cannot purchase what only God can give.
5. The wise person uses wealth instead of worshipping wealth.

1: Wisdom is More Valuable than Gold and Silver

The book of Proverbs repeatedly compares wisdom with precious metals.

Proverbs 3:13-15 says: “Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit from gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.”

Notice the language Solomon uses.

Wisdom is:

- Better than silver.
- More profitable than gold.
- More precious than jewels.
- Greater than anything we might desire.

Solomon was qualified to make this statement. He knew wealth. He had gold beyond imagination. The Bible tells us that during Solomon’s reign, silver was considered almost worthless because gold was so abundant.

Yet after experiencing wealth, power, and success, Solomon concluded: “Wisdom is better.” Why?

Because gold can buy many things, but it cannot buy the things that matter most.

- Gold can buy a house, but it cannot buy a home.
- Gold can buy medicine, but it cannot buy health.
- Gold can buy entertainment, but it cannot buy joy.
- Gold can buy a comfortable bed, but it cannot buy peaceful sleep.
- Gold can buy influence, but it cannot buy character.
- Gold can buy a crown, but it cannot make a king wise.

The world often measures success by accumulation. Proverbs measures success by transformation.

- A person may have a large bank account and a poor soul.
- A person may have many possessions and very little peace.
- A person may be admired by people but unknown by God.

Jesus asked a powerful question:

“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul.?”

- The greatest tragedy is not dying poor.
- The greatest tragedy is living rich and dying empty.

2: Wisdom Must Be Sought Like Hidden Treasure

Proverbs does not describe wisdom as something casually discovered. Wisdom must be pursued.

Proverbs 2:1-5 says:

“My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.”

Solomon uses the picture of a treasure hunter. Imagine someone who believes gold is buried somewhere on his property. He does not casually walk around hoping to find it. He searches carefully. He studies maps. He digs deeply. He refuses to give up.

Solomon says: That is how we should seek wisdom. Why do many people never experience the wisdom of God? Because they are not searching for it.

- They search for money.
- They search for success.
- They search for comfort.
- They search for recognition.

But they do not search for God’s wisdom. Proverbs teaches us that wisdom requires intentional pursuit.

We must:

- Open God’s Word.
- Listen to instruction.
- Seek understanding.
- Pray for discernment.
- Learn from those who walk faithfully.

Wisdom is not automatically gained through age. A person can grow older without growing wiser. Years alone do not produce wisdom. Experience alone does not produce wisdom. Only experience submitted to God produces wisdom.

There are people who have lived many years but repeat the same mistakes because they never seek God's understanding. And there are people who, through humility and obedience, become wise beyond their years. Wisdom begins with a posture of the heart.

Proverbs 9:10 says:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Biblical fear is not terror. It is reverence. It is recognizing that God is God and we are not.

The wise person begins by saying: "Lord, teach me. Guide me. Correct me. Shape me."

The foolish person says: "I know what I want. I know what is best. I will follow my own way."

The difference between wisdom and foolishness is often not intelligence. It is surrender.

3: The Value of Wisdom is Seen in the Decisions We Make

Gold and silver have value because of what they can provide.

Wisdom has value because of what it produces.

Proverbs 4:7 says:

"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight."

Wisdom affects every area of life.

- It affects our marriages.
- It affects our friendships.
- It affects our finances.
- It affects our words.
- It affects our priorities.
- It affects our relationship with God.

A wise person understands that every decision has consequences.

Proverbs 14:12 warns:

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

One of the most dangerous things in life is sincerely being wrong.

- A person can be confident and still be foolish.
- A person can be successful and still lack wisdom.
- A person can have knowledge and still lack understanding.
- Knowledge tells us facts. Wisdom teaches us how to live.
- Knowledge can build a missile. Wisdom asks whether we should use it.
- Knowledge can create wealth. Wisdom teaches us what wealth is for.
- Knowledge can tell us how to speak. Wisdom teaches us when to remain silent.

- Knowledge can make us impressive. Wisdom makes us fruitful.

4: Gold and Silver Cannot Purchase What Only God Can Give

The greatest treasures in life cannot be purchased.

- You cannot buy forgiveness.
- You cannot buy salvation.
- You cannot buy a clean conscience.
- You cannot buy eternal life.
- You cannot buy the love of God.

Proverbs points us beyond earthly treasure toward spiritual treasure.

Proverbs 8:35 says: “For whoever find me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord.”

Wisdom is connected to life itself. But where does this wisdom ultimately lead? It leads us to Jesus Christ.

The New Testament reveals that Jesus is the fullest expression on God’s wisdom.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:24: “Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

All the wisdom Proverbs teaches finds its fulfillment in Christ.

- Jesus is the treasure greater than gold.
- He is the one who give meaning to life.
- He is the one who forgives sin.
- He is the one who restores broken hearts.
- He is the one who offers eternal riches that never fade.

The apostle Peter wrote: “You were redeemed... not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Think about that contrast. Silver and gold are considered precious. But they are perishable. They can be lost. They can be stolen. They can disappear.

But the blood of Christ is priceless because it purchases something money cannot buy: A restored relationship with God.

5: Wisdom Leads Us to the Greatest Treasure of All – A Life with God!

Proverbs does not tell us that money has no purpose. Money is a tool. The question is: Who controls whom? Do we possess wealth, or does wealth possess us?

Proverbs 11:4 says: “Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.”

Money matters in this life. But righteousness matters forever. The wise person understands that everything belongs to God. Our possessions and wealth are not trophies. They are responsibilities. Our resources and wealth are not merely for our pleasure. They are opportunities to serve.

A wise person asks: “Lord, how can I use what You have given me for Your purposes?”

The foolish person asks: “How much more can I get?”

The wise person asks: “How much more can I give?”

Conclusion – Choose the Treasure that Lasts

Wisdom leads us to the greatest treasure of all – a life with God!

The world offers many treasures. Some shine brightly but fade quickly. Some promise happiness but leave emptiness. Some appear valuable but cannot satisfy the soul.

The book of Proverbs calls us to seek a better treasure.

- Not gold.
- Not silver.
- Not possessions, but wisdom.
- Because wisdom leads us to God.

And God gives us what money cannot buy:

- Peace that circumstances cannot destroy.
- Joy that possessions cannot provide.
- Hope that death cannot defeat.
- Life that lasts forever.

The question before us today is: What treasure are we seeking? Are we spending our lives chasing things that will eventually pass away? Or are we pursuing the wisdom of God that lasts forever?

Jesus said: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up yourselves in heaven.” (Matthew 6:19-20)

God and silver have value. But wisdom has great value. Gold and silver can make life comfortable, but wisdom makes life meaningful. Gold and silver may last for a lifetime. But the wisdom of God lasts forever. Wisdom leads us.

Let us pray.