

**WEALTH**

**Neither Poverty nor Riches**



Pro 1:10-19 <sup>10</sup> My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them. <sup>11</sup> If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul; <sup>12</sup> let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; <sup>13</sup> we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; <sup>14</sup> throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse"-- <sup>15</sup> my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; <sup>16</sup> for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood. <sup>17</sup> How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds! <sup>18</sup> These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves! <sup>19</sup> Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it.

Pro 3:27-28 <sup>27</sup> Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. <sup>28</sup> Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow"-- when you now have it with you.

Pro 8:1-21 Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? <sup>2</sup> On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; <sup>3</sup> beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: <sup>4</sup> "To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. <sup>5</sup> You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding. <sup>6</sup> Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. <sup>7</sup> My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. <sup>8</sup> All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. <sup>9</sup> To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge. <sup>10</sup> Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, <sup>11</sup> for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. <sup>12</sup> "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. <sup>13</sup> To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. <sup>14</sup> Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power. <sup>15</sup> By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just; <sup>16</sup> by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth. <sup>17</sup> I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. <sup>18</sup> With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. <sup>19</sup> My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. <sup>20</sup> I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, <sup>21</sup> bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.

Pro 10:1-2 The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother. <sup>2</sup> Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death.

Pro 10:15-16 The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor. <sup>16</sup> The wages of the righteous bring them life, but the income of the wicked brings them punishment.

Pro 11:1 The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.

Pro 11:4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death

Pro 11:15-18 <sup>15</sup> He who puts up security for another will surely suffer, but whoever refuses to strike hands in pledge is safe. <sup>16</sup> A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth. <sup>17</sup> A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself. <sup>18</sup> The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

Pro 11:24-28 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. <sup>25</sup> A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. <sup>26</sup> People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell. <sup>27</sup> He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it. <sup>28</sup> Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Pro 12:11-14 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment. <sup>12</sup> The wicked desire the plunder of evil men, but the root of the righteous flourishes. <sup>13</sup> An evil man is trapped by his sinful talk, but a righteous man escapes trouble. <sup>14</sup> From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.

Pro 13:7-8 One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth. <sup>8</sup> A man's riches may ransom his life, but a poor man hears no threat.

Pro 13:22-23 A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous. <sup>23</sup> A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away.

Pro 14:14 The faithless will be fully repaid for their ways, and the good man rewarded for his.

Pro 14:20-24 <sup>20</sup> The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends. <sup>21</sup> He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy. <sup>22</sup> Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness. <sup>23</sup> All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. <sup>24</sup> The wealth of the wise is their crown, but the folly of fools yields folly.

Pro 14:31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Pro 15:6 The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings them trouble.

Pro 15:15-16 <sup>15</sup> All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast. <sup>16</sup> Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.

Pro 15:25 The LORD tears down the proud man's house but he keeps the widow's boundaries intact.

Pro 15:27 A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live.

Pro 16:8 Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.

Pro 16:11 Honest scales and balances are from the LORD; all the weights in the bag are of his making.

Pro 16:16 How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!

Pro 16:19-20 Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud. <sup>20</sup> Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

Pro 17:1-2 Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife. <sup>2</sup> A wise servant will rule over a disgraceful son, and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers.

Pro 17:8 A bribe is a charm to the one who gives it; wherever he turns, he succeeds.

Pro 17:16 Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?

Pro 18:11 The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it an unscalable wall.

Pro 18:16 A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.

Pro 18:23 A poor man pleads for mercy, but a rich man answers harshly.

Pro 19:1 Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a fool whose lips are perverse.

Pro 19:4 Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.

Pro 19:7-8 A poor man is shunned by all his relatives-- how much more do his friends avoid him! Though he pursues them with pleading, they are nowhere to be found.<sup>8</sup> He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers.

Pro 19:10 It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury-- how much worse for a slave to rule over princes!

Pro 19:14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Pro 19:17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

Pro 19:26 He who robs his father and drives out his mother is a son who brings shame and disgrace.

Pro 20:14-15 "It's no good, it's no good!" says the buyer; then off he goes and boasts about his purchase.<sup>15</sup> Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.

Pro 20:17 Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.

Pro 20:21 An inheritance quickly gained at the beginning will not be blessed at the end.

Pro 21:5-6 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.<sup>6</sup> A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.

Pro 21:13-14 If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

<sup>14</sup> A gift given in secret soothes anger, and a bribe concealed in the cloak pacifies great wrath.

Pro 21:17 He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.

Pro 21:20-21 In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has. <sup>21</sup> He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

Pro 22:1-2 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. <sup>2</sup> Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.

Pro 22:7 The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Pro 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich--both come to poverty.

Pro 22:22-23 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, <sup>23</sup> for the LORD will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.

Pro 22:26-27 Do not be a man who strikes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; <sup>27</sup> if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.

Pro 23:1-8 When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you, <sup>2</sup> and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony. <sup>3</sup> Do not crave his delicacies, for that food is deceptive. <sup>4</sup> Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. <sup>5</sup> Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle. <sup>6</sup> Do not eat the food of a stingy man, do not crave his delicacies; <sup>7</sup> for he is the kind of man who is always thinking about the cost. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you. <sup>8</sup> You will vomit up the little you have eaten and will have wasted your compliments.

Pro 23:20-21 Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, <sup>21</sup> for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

Pro 24:3-4 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; <sup>4</sup> through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

Pro 24:24-25 Whoever says to the guilty, "You are innocent"-- peoples will curse him and nations denounce him. <sup>25</sup> But it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and rich blessing will come upon them.

Pro 25:4-5 Remove the dross from the silver, and out comes material for the silversmith; <sup>5</sup> remove the wicked from the king's presence, and his throne will be

established through righteousness.

Pro 25:11-12 A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. <sup>12</sup> Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.

Pro 27:7 He who is full loathes honey, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.

Pro 27:21 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives.

Pro 27:23-27 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; <sup>24</sup> for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations. <sup>25</sup> When the hay is removed and new growth appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in, <sup>26</sup> the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats with the price of a field. <sup>27</sup> You will have plenty of goats' milk to feed you and your family and to nourish your servant girls.

Pro 28:6 <sup>6</sup> Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse.

Pro 28:8 He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.

Pro 28:10-11 He who leads the upright along an evil path will fall into his own trap, but the blameless will receive a good inheritance. <sup>11</sup> A rich man may be wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has discernment sees through him.

Pro 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy

Pro 28:19-22 <sup>19</sup> He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty. <sup>20</sup> A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished. <sup>21</sup> To show partiality is not good-- yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread. <sup>22</sup> A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.

Pro 28:25 A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.

Pro 29:3 A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

Pro 29:7 The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.

Pro 29:13-14 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives sight to the eyes of both. <sup>14</sup> If a king judges the poor with fairness, his throne will always be secure.

Pro 30:7-9 "Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: <sup>8</sup> Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. <sup>9</sup> Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

Pro 31:4-9<sup>4</sup> "It is not for kings, O Lemuel-- not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, <sup>5</sup> lest they drink and forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights. <sup>6</sup> Give beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are in anguish; <sup>7</sup> let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more. <sup>8</sup> "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. <sup>9</sup> Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Pro 31:10-31<sup>10</sup> A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. <sup>11</sup> Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. <sup>12</sup> She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. <sup>13</sup> She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. <sup>14</sup> She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. <sup>15</sup> She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. <sup>16</sup> She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. <sup>17</sup> She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. <sup>18</sup> She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. <sup>19</sup> In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. <sup>20</sup> She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. <sup>21</sup> When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. <sup>22</sup> She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. <sup>23</sup> Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. <sup>24</sup> She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. <sup>25</sup> She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. <sup>26</sup> She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. <sup>27</sup> She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. <sup>28</sup> Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: <sup>29</sup> "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." <sup>30</sup> Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. <sup>31</sup> Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.