

PROVERBS

exceptional wisdom for a successful life

Managing *money* wisely

A Proverbs Study on Wisdom's Instruction about Money

1. We have heard proverbs about money: "*A fool and his money are soon parted.*" *Money can't buy you happiness*" and "*Money talks*"
2. But have we heard what the Proverbs have to say about money and wealth? Let us glean some wisdom by looking at a few of them. By way of introduction, first realize where wealth comes from:

Proverbs 10:22

"It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it."

1. **Avoid Extreme Attitudes:** poverty and wealth

- a. Poverty is not a virtue: Proverbs 10:15; 13:18; 20:13; 23:21
- b. Wealth does not mean success: Proverbs 13:7, 11; 23:4, 5; 28:6
- c. The wise man's prayer: Proverbs 30:7-9

2. **Keep Your Priorities Straight:** money isn't everything

- a. A good name, love, and wisdom are all more valuable than riches:
Proverbs 22:1; 15:17; 17:1; 8:10-11
- b. Wisdom can even lead to wealth: Proverbs 8:21; 23:23

3. **Rich but bankrupt:** wealth without righteousness makes one poor

- a. Righteousness surpasses wealth: Proverbs 15:6; 16:8; 19:1; 28:6; (Psalm 37:16)
- b. Do they like you or your money? Proverbs 19:4, 6, 7
- c. Cursed by Greed: Proverbs 11:6; 26; (Ephesian 5:5)

4. **Remember the Poor:** use wealth to serve God

- a. Insult God by oppressing the poor: Proverbs 14:21, 31; 17:5
- b. Ignore the poor and be ignored by God: Proverbs 21:13; 11:24-25; 22:16
- c. Learn to love to share: Proverbs 11:25; 19:17; 22:9; 28:27; 29:7

5. **Self-control:** Work hard and don't spend the whole dollar!

- a. No quick rich plans: Proverbs 10:4; 13:4, 11; 21:5; 28:19-20
- b. Save, save, save: Proverbs 21:17, 20; 23:21; 27:23-24

6. **Money saved nobody:** Don't be deceived!

Proverbs 10:2; 11:4; 23:5; 27:24; 11:28; 28:25

Summary: Money is neither good or bad, evil or righteous. Money is a tool, often reward, and can be a curse to those who trust in it. The love of money may lead one to ruin. Yet the love of God will often reward one with money in order to serve Him, "The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life" (22:4). In the end remember, "The rich and the poor have a common bond, the LORD is the maker of them all" (22:2).

