

Topical Study 4: Wealth and Poverty

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Topical studies in Proverbs- *Wealth & Poverty*

Wealth given by the LORD is a blessing.

- Wealth is a blessing from God for diligence, wisdom, & righteousness (3:9-10, 15-16; 8:17-18; 10:4b, 22; 22:4).
- Wealth used wisely honors God, benefits others, and oneself (3:9-10; 11:24-25; 22:9).

However, not only the wise have wealth . . .

Notes & Questions:

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Wealth gained wrongly or unwisely is a curse and leads to ruin.

- Oppression of the poor (22:16)
- Unfair or unethical business practices (28:8)
- Dishonesty (13:11; 21:6)
- “Easy Money” (20:21)

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Wealth has its limits.

- Wisdom and righteousness are better than wealth (15:16; 16:8, 16, 19; 22:1; 28:6)
- Wealth cannot buy happiness (15:16 -17; 17:1) or guarantee safety (13:8).
- Wealth is fleeting & unstable (23:4 -5).
- Wealth cannot save one from God’s judgment (11:4, 28).

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Poverty

- Foolishness, laziness, & overindulgence lead to poverty (6:6-11; 10:4a; 14:24; 21:5, 17; 23:20-21).
- Injustice & oppression also cause poverty (13:23; 22:16).
- Being poor & righteous is better than being wealthy & wicked (16:8, 19; 28:6).
- The wealthy & the poor have equal standing before God & the poor should be accorded respect & dignity (14:31; 17:5; 22:2).

Notes & Questions:
