

Wisdom on Wealth

from the book of Proverbs

Proverbs:

1:11-19

If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse"—
my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

2:1-5

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.

3:9-10

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

3:13-18

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

5:8-14

Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless, lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner, and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed, and you say, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors. I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation."

6:1-5

My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, have given your pledge for a stranger, if you are snared in the words of your mouth, caught in the words of your mouth, then do this, my son, and save yourself, for you have come into the hand of your neighbor: go, hasten, and plead urgently with your neighbor. Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber; save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

6:6-11

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

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- 6:25-26 Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.
- 6:35-36 For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge. He will accept no compensation; he will refuse though you multiply gifts.
- 6:30-31 People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry, but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house.
- 8:10-11 Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.
- 8:18-19 Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver.
- 8:20-21 I walk in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice, granting an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasuries.
- 10:2 Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death.
- 10:4-5 A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.
- 10:15 A rich man's wealth is his strong city; the poverty of the poor is their ruin.
- 10:16 The wage of the righteous leads to life, the gain of the wicked to sin.
- 10:22 The blessing of the Lord makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.
- 11:4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.
- 11:15 Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer harm, but he who hates striking hands in pledge is secure.
- 11:16 A gracious woman gets honor, and violent men get riches.
- 11:18 The wicked earns deceptive wages, but one who sows righteousness gets a sure reward.
- 11:22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.
- 11:24-26 One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.

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- 11:28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.
- 11:29 Whoever troubles his own household will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.
- 12:9 Better to be lowly and have a servant than to play the great man and lack bread.
- 12:11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.
- 12:14 From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.
- 12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.
- 12:27 Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.
- 13:4 The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.
- 13:7 One pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.
- 13:8 The ransom of a man's life is his wealth, but a poor man hears no threat.
- 13:11 Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.
- 13:18 Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored.
- 13:21 Disaster pursues sinners, but the righteous are rewarded with good.
- 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.
- 13:23 The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice.
- 13:25 The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite, but the belly of the wicked suffers want.
- 14:4 Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.
- 14:20 The poor is disliked even by his neighbor, but the rich has many friends.
- 14:21 Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.
- 14:23 In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.

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- 14:24 The crown of the wise is their wealth, but the folly of fools brings folly.
- 14:31 Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.
- 15:6 In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but trouble befalls the income of the wicked.
- 15:16-17 Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.
- 15:25 The Lord tears down the house of the proud but maintains the widow's boundaries.
- 15:27 Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live.
- 16:8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.
- 16:16 How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.
- 16:19 It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.
- 16:20 A worker's appetite works for him; his hunger urges him on.
- 17:2 A servant who deals wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers.
- 17:3 The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the Lord tests hearts.
- 17:5 Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.
- 17:8 A bribe is like a magic stone in the eyes of the one who gives it; wherever he turns he prospers.
- 17:16 Why should a fool have money in his hand to buy wisdom when he has no sense?
- 17:18 One who lacks sense gives a pledge and puts up security in the presence of his neighbor.
- 17:23 The wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice.
- 18:11 A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination.
- 18:16 A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before the great.
- 18:23 The poor use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly.

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- 19:1 Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.
- 19:4 Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend.
- 19:6-7 Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts. All a poor man's brothers hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him! He pursues them with words, but does not have them.
- 19:14 House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.
- 19:15 Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.
- 19:17 Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.
- 19:22 What is desired in a man is steadfast love, and a poor man is better than a liar.
- 20:4 The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.
- 20:13 Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.
- 20:14 "Bad, Bad," says the buyer, but when he goes away, then he boasts.
- 20:15 There is gold and abundance of costly stones, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.
- 20:16 Take a man's garment when he has put up security for a stranger, and hold it in pledge when he puts up security for foreigners.
- 20:17 Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be full of gravel.
- 20:21 An inheritance gained hastily in the beginning will not be blessed in the end.
- 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.
- 21:6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.
- 21:13 Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.
- 21:14 A gift in secret averts anger, and a concealed bribe, strong wrath.
- 21:17 Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.
- 21:20-21 Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it. Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.

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- 21:25-26 The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.
- 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.
- 22:2 The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the maker of them all.
- 22:3 The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.
- 22:4 The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.
- 22:7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.
- 22:9 Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.
- 22:16 Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.
- 22:22-23 Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate, for the Lord will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them.
- 22:26-27 Be not one of those who give pledges, who put up security for debts. If you have nothing with which to pay, why should your bed be taken from under you?
- 22:28 Do not move the ancient landmark that your fathers have set.
- 23:4-5 Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.
- 23:6-7 Do not eat the bread of a man who is stingy; do not desire his delicacies, for he is like one who is inwardly calculating. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you. You will vomit up the morsels that you have eaten, and waste your pleasant words.
- 23:19-21 Hear, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way. Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat, for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags.
- 24:3-4 By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.
- 24:27 Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.

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- 24:30-34 I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.
- 26:13-16 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!" As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth. The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.
- 27:12 The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.
- 27:13 Take a man's garment when he has put up security for a stranger, and hold it in pledge when he puts up security for an adulteress.
- 27:21 The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and a man is tested by his praise.
- 27:23-27 Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds, for riches do not last forever; and does a crown endure to all generations? When the grass is gone and the new growth appears and the vegetation of the mountains is gathered, the lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field. There will be enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household and maintenance for your girls.
- 28:3 A poor man who oppresses the poor is a beating rain that leaves no food.
- 28:6 Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.
- 28:8 Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit gathers it for him who is generous to the poor.
- 28:11 A rich man is wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has understanding will find him out.
- 28:16 A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor, but he who hates unjust gain will prolong his days.
- 28:19 A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor, but he who hates unjust gain will prolong his days.
- 28:20 A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.
- 28:21 To show partiality is not good, but for a piece of bread a man will do wrong.

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- 28:22 A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.
- 28:24 Whoever robs his father or his mother and says, "That is no transgression," is a companion to a man who destroys.
- 28:25 A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the Lord will be enriched.
- 28:27 Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.
- 29:3 He who loves wisdom makes his father glad, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.
- 29:4 By justice a king builds up the land, but he who exacts gifts tears it down.
- 29:7 A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.
- 29:13 The poor man and the oppressor meet together; the Lord gives light to the eyes of both.
- 29:14 If a king faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever.
- 30:7-9 Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.
- 31:8-9 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

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31:10-31

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.

The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.

She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.

She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.

She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.

She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.

She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.

She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.

She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.