THE WEALTH OF WISDOM

**DATE: 3/13/2016 pm**

**TEXT: Proverbs 10:2-4, 15**

**INTRODUCTION**

It has been a while since we have been in the Book of Proverbs

We left off in **Chapter 10**, so I thought I’d start **chapter 10** over again …

And look at it from a little different perspective then how we have been looking at it

You see, **Chapter 10** is one of the divisions found in this Blessed Book

The first 9 chapters of Proverbs were introductory in that they gave a Description of Wisdom and showed its contrast to folly

**Proverbs 10** begins a section commonly known as ***“The Proverbs of Solomon”*** – **v. 1**

From here thru **Chapter 24** we will find a Series of Pithy Sayings of Wisdom in contrast to folly

Most are unrelated to each other; therefore it makes more sense to present them in a form of Topics

Hundreds of proverbs are recorded and they are a treasure house of inexhaustible Wisdom

They cover every area of life: personal relationships, responsibilities of home and family, social involvements and civic duties

The approach to this chapter will be according to subject matter with some verses overlapping

Some verses have more than one subject

This chapter has at least four main subjects with an additional point which addresses some miscellaneous subjects treated in various verses

Those Subjects are - Wealth, Work, Words, the Wicked and Wisdom

These subjects are in no particular order of importance

Tonight we will begin with the Subject of Wealth

So let’s pray and begin to think on this thought tonight

**“The Wealth of Wisdom”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

When Solomon took over for his father David

He was a little overwhelmed

Turn with me to **I Kings 3:5-15** …

God came to Solomon in his need

And because of his humble heart

We have this Treasure of a Book in the Bible

As we begin **chapter 10** again …

Let’s first look at the Topic of **Wealth** found in **vs. 2-4, 15**

The emphasis in our day is on the economy which focuses on Wealth

The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about Wealth which is obviously ignored by most of society and government

These verses speak of 4 lessons about Wealth

First, let’s look at …

**I. THE “LIMITATIONS” OF WEALTH – v. 2**

**A. v.2a - *“Treasures of wickedness profit nothing:”***

**1.** Treasures of Wickedness

Treasures can be anything that someone would consider valuable, something of great worth

Here it says ***“Treasures of Wickedness”***

It is describing what the Wicked consider to be of value

Who are the Wicked / Ever thought of it?

**Psalm 10:4 –** ***“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts”***

Biblically, the word ***“wicked”*** does not necessarily mean *morally depraved* or *violently dangerous*

(as we often assume)

Just because someone is Wicked, doesn’t necessarily make them Evil / malicious

Many good people are Wicked

It essentially means *godless* or *ungodly*

They have no regard for Who God is

**Genesis 6:5 –** ***“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”***

God is Not in all of his thoughts / Godless

This **10th psalm** provides a graphic summary of their real character

They are …

-- Flatterers – **v.3 - *“For the wicked . . . blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth”***

-- Proud – **v.4 - *“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God”***

-- Stubborn – **v. 6 - *“He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity”***

-- Profane – **v. 7 - *“His mouth is full of cursing …under his tongue is mischief and vanity”***

-- Hurtful – **v. 8 - *“In the secret places doth he murder the innocent”*** This surely applies to character assassination, when not to actual killing

-- Deceptive – **v. 7, 9 - *“His mouth is full of . . . deceit and fraud: . . . He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den”***

-- Atheistic – **v. 11 - *“He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: . . . He will never see it”***

**2.** Profit Nothing

Riches may seem Profitable

But they are only temporary / like the Stock Market

**Proverbs 23:5 *– “Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven”***

They are limited in what they can purchase

They can buy expensive clothes, build a big house with elaborate furnishings, pay for an elegant life-style and supply most every selfish indulgence

However, the Treasures of Wickedness

-- Cannot purchase a good conscience

-- They cannot buy health or happiness

-- They cannot pay off the debt of death

-- A room full of gold cannot give a handful of good

-- It is not enough to furnish true friendship or finance any hope of heaven

**Luke 16:19-23 …** The Rich man and Lazarus

The rich man’s wealth was worthless in hell

David said in **Psalm 37:35, 36 - *“I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not”***

**Psalm 1:6 - *“For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish”***

You cannot take your riches with you

**B. v. 2b** - ***“but righteousness delivereth from death”***

Money, in-and-of-itself is not inherently wicked

Rather the Love of Money is / always wanting more

**I Timothy 6:10 –** ***“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”***

Righteousness will do more for an economy than all the wealth of the wicked

**Psalm 37:21 *– “The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth”***

The Limitations of Wealth are especially seen spiritually

**Mark 8:36 – “*What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”***

Righteousness is the greatest of riches

The right kind of living can spare us from physical death

Honest dealings have a tendency to extend life

More importantly, Righteousness delivers us from spiritual and eternal death

It is the righteousness that is imputed by Christ as a result of faith

**Philippians 3:9 *– “And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”***

**Titus 3:5 *– “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”***

**THE “LIMITATIONS” OF WEALTH**

**II. THE “LOSS” OF WEALTH – vs. 3**

Nobody likes to lose (anything)

We don’t like to lose contests

We don’t like to lose possessions

We especially don’t like to lose money!

**A. v. 3a - *“The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish:”***

God will supply the needs of His people

Through Simple Means or Spectacular Methods …

God will provide what is necessary for the support of His people

I think of the widow and the barrel of flour and the cruse of oil that never went dry

**I Kings 17:14 –** ***“For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth”***

***“Famish” …***

We often use this word to describe being hungry

But as it’s used here, it means much more then that

This word describes people who experience a severe shortage of food

They are deprived of something to eat and face starvation

Famine is not something America is familiar with

But Famine is not a cause for fear to those who have faith in God

**Psalm 33:19 *– “To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine”***

**Psalm 34:9, 10 –** ***“O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear Him” “The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing”***

**Psalm 37:3, 19, 25 *– “Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed” “They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied” “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread”***

**Matthew 6:30-33 –** ***“Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?” “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?” “(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things”***

***“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”***

**B. v. 3b - *“but He (God) casteth away the substance of the wicked”***

The Righteous find Satisfaction but the Wicked find Scarcity

God’s People find His Provision

But the Craving of those who do not belong to God find only Disappointment

They find no real enjoyment for their efforts

God prevents any lasting Pleasure in their Pursuits

**THE “LIMITATIONS” OF WEALTH**

**THE “LOSS” OF WEALTH**

**III. THE “LABOR” OF WEALTH – v. 4**

**Labor** is defined *as physical work, work done using the strength of the body*

Our aversion to labor is due to the curse of sin

**Genesis 3:17-19 –** ***“And unto Adam He said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;”***

***“Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;” “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return”***

That’s why they call it *hard* … work

No one likes to feel tired and uncomfortable

That’s why the Lottery is so popular / panacea

But Hard Work is the key to Wealth

Our economy is in trouble because of the philosophy of less work and more pay

Paying a non-productive person leads to poverty of the economy

**A. v. 4a - *“He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand:”***

God says that Laziness is Penalized by Poverty

***“Dealeth”*** - this word carries the idea of activity, it refers to a purpose in mind

In this case it is *the thought of lack of activity*

***“slack hands”*** pictures someone sitting on their hands instead of using their hands to labor

**B. v. 4b - *“but the hand of the diligent maketh rich”***

As a general rule Wealth will not come to those who will not work

The Idle will have empty hands, but the Diligent will have full hands

Much of the poverty in modern American society is caused by nothing more than laziness

Young people haven’t developed a Work ethnic

They’ve been left to themselves

**Proverbs 29:15b – *“… a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame”***

Rather, he (or she) who rises early and works long and

hard, conscientiously and diligently, will quickly rise above poverty

A great illustration of this principle is found in the immigrates who come to America from around the world

They arrived in abject poverty but they work hard every waking hour of the day, and many have become prosperous and even affluent

**THE “LIMITATIONS” OF WEALTH**

**THE “LOSS” OF WEALTH**

**THE “LABOUR” OF WEALTH**

Lastly, let’s look at …

**IV. THE “LIVELIHOOD” OF WEALTH – v. 15**

Americans think their Livelihoods are theirSalvation

They are trusting in their income to protect them

**A. v.15a – *“The rich man's wealth is his strong city:”***

***“strong city”*** - In OT days, cities were protected by walls that surrounded them

**Proverbs 18:19 –** ***“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle”***

People found security in fortified cities

***“his strong city”***– walls of someone’s own making

But it will not provide as much protection as he would hope

People think that earnings will produce security

But riches are not enough to protect from the power of sickness and death

The only Wealth that provides security is in being rich toward God

The parable of the certain Rich man …

**Luke 12:21 *– “So is he … that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God”***

**B. v.15b -** **“*The Destruction of the poor is their poverty”***

This practical observation is of the material condition of the poor

It’s not speaking in the perspective of spiritual possessions

But simply notes that materially, the poor are generally in a difficult place

It’s a prompter to work

That is, if you want to avoid being ruined

**II Thessalonians 3:10 *– “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat”***

I’ve found that most people think that everything should be just given to them

**CONCLUSION**

We live in a society that is obsessed with Wealth

But physical Wealth will never last nor will it fully satisfy

The Wealth that is needed, are the Treasures of Heaven

**Matthew 6:19-21 –** ***“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:” “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, …***

***…and where thieves do not break through nor steal:” “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”***

**THE “LIMITATIONS” OF WEALTH**

**THE “LOSS” OF WEALTH**

**THE “LABOUR” OF WEALTH**

**THE “LIVELIHOOD” OF WEALTH**