

] All Precious and Pleasant Riches [

Proverbs Chapter Twenty-Four

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~ As a Christian, how do you feel when the wicked prosper? Are you jealous of them and covetous of the care-free and problem-free lives they seem to enjoy? Do you truly believe God is in control of the affairs of men? Do you believe God when He says He makes the rich and the poor? I truly hope you are being blessed by these reports from the book of Proverbs. I know I have been. Our Spiritual Safari is in the middle of the commencement speech given by the Holy Spirit to our graduating class in this report. Of course, to be on this page of Scripture necessarily means that you have majored in getting the entire Word of God out to the entire world in sound doctrine during your time here in the Academy of Wisdom at God's University. Surely, the Lord will say to you, "*well done, My faithful servant.*"

That's the destination we set sail for on day one of this expedition through the entire Word of God; specifically, to locate the Lord Jesus on every page of Scripture, and present Him properly, correctly and completely to the entire world. Only God can provide a compass for us to fully comprehend our position in relation to the world around us. Only the Spirit of God can kindle a desire in our heart for a sincere, educated and competent Bible study, friends. And the only way He is going to give it to you is if you ask for wisdom, judgment and discernment in prayer. This section of Scripture contains truths that have been boiled-down — and are now repeated; reiterated by Solomon many times so they can speak directly to our hearts today — so they can grip our hearts and direct us accordingly in this present world....

1 Be not thou envious of evil men, neither desire to be with them.

2 For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

~ Anything important in our lives will be taught by God through repetition. We've been over many of these truths in Proverbs several times, stressing

the dangers of the tongue, the fool, pride and money. These are things that are constantly emphasized, because these are the things we so quickly forget. They begin to be injected into our lives the moment we are born in the flesh. There is a very definite proverb for everyone you know. We have also examined how these proverbs are applicable to other Bible characters. Psalm seventy-three is a Psalm of Asaph; and he told the Lord that he was envious at the foolish when he saw the prosperity of the wicked. The rich were evil, and they blasphemed God, but they didn't seem to have the same problems that God's children were enduring. That disturbed Asaph.

I don't know about you, but I have been greatly disturbed by that reality, too. I don't know why God permits men to make merchandise of the Lord Jesus Christ and become very rich doing so; but – He does! I'll be honest with you dear readers – because I always am honest with you – that leaves me with a real question mark in my brain. But what I know is God tells me to not be envious because there is a day of reckoning approaching for them. So, that brought the time for me to decide if I believed the Bible is the Word of God. Until I went into the sanctuary of God, I didn't understand it. After I made an effort to learn about God in His Word, then understood I their end, says Asaph — and Andrew — in the seventy-third Psalm.

There is a great deal of injustice in this world today; and there is very little you or I can do about it. This generation has protested every cause, tolerated every social disease, abused every substance; and, with all of those causes being exhausted, our society is virtually spinning around in chaos, as the landmarks have been tampered with – as we saw in our last report. The world is currently in the process of perverting every verse of Scripture; twisting it and diluting it until there will be no man to understand. Well, God is going to reward those who have been faithful with handling His Word in eternity; and we know we can trust the Lord Jesus Christ to do it. Selah ~

Moving on, we each have to ultimately learn that we have a God-designated place in this life; and by accepting His will, in the capacity He has ordained, we become much happier people. When we accept that God has put us in our particular location and circumstance for His glory — and

accept that He has a particular plan and purpose for our lives — then we will be able to look at the evil rich man and understand God is going to work this all out for us. That, my friends, is very, very difficult to lay hold of in our thinking! Every wicked man in the Bible meets a very bad end, friends. Do you believe God? Judgment is upon the rich and wicked man. Period. This is a very, very important statement the Holy Spirit is making in our commencement address; we'll all do well to listen extremely carefully and, if you haven't read all twenty-six safari reports thus far from Proverbs, I highly suggest you go back and do so now....

3 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

4 And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

~ What wonderful pictures the Lord paints for us. In our work for the Lord, we are, in essence, building our spiritual house. We fill that house with lovely furnishings, tapestries and pictures, cherished personal items, and all manner of wonderful substance. A beautifully appointed, clean physical home is wonderful to me. But, we are to be building a house to be a home of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, judgment, discernment and spiritual awareness – where the Lord Jesus Christ lives with us, through us. I can picture a beautiful mansion by the sea for me, filled with friends and family. Well, we must fill our hearts and lives with the Lord Jesus Christ, and study the Word of God to show ourselves approved in order to legitimately possess those things. There is no other way to attain rightly precious and pleasant riches. The number one problem in the church today is a total and complete ignorance of the Word of God. There are some who try to speak as if they are more spiritual than Samuel but, oh, my, they have a vacant spiritual house. That type of ignorance has led to more Christian Tragedies than any other church problem. It causes churches to split, and members to leave – and it can personally hurt or maim the faith of other people when we wield a spiritual sword carelessly and unlearnedly ~

5 A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.

6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.

~ The “*multitude of counselors*” just happens to mean the prophets in the Word of God. I have to laugh at people who flip open the Bible, turn two pages to the left, and attempt to form a sensical theology. Most people treat the Word of God like a roulette wheel; hoping it will miraculously stop in exactly the right place — their lucky verse! That’s no good, friends. That’s blasphemy. No, until you know what King David wrote, and Ezra wrote, and Moses wrote, and Jeremiah — and every single other one of the writers of the Word of God wrote, to whom, about what, and at what time — you’ll not have the safety of the multitude of counselors as prescribed in the Word of God. You might want to write that down. We can appeal to the Holy prophets of Scripture through the power of the Holy Spirit in times where we need an immediate decision, my beloved. I would love to spend more time hanging around this place, but we must move along....

7 Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate.

8 He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.

9 The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.

10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

~ God develops our unique character and special abilities through adversity; and that is what enables us to grow. Most people reject that truth wholesale. It is during the trial that we truly manifest spiritual strength to stand for the cause of Christ. When the true tests of life come along, most people turn and run. Elijah had been so brave on Mount Caramel against four hundred fifty false prophets; but when one person told him Jezebel was going to kill him, he ran as fast as he could into the wilderness — even leaving his servant behind — and sat down under a tree, and told the Lord he wanted to die. When David ran from Saul, he was dogged day and night. David was hunted like an animal and didn’t have a moment’s peace in those caves. Many Bible scholars believe that time

lasted for at least a decade. He became greatly discouraged; but he always trusted God....

11 If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;

12 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

~ Now, friends, there is someone we can help — but don't. I know we are not promised earthly treasures, but a man should not be impoverished with overwhelming grief. This is spiritual. If you are reading this, you have the means to help someone, but you won't — for whatever reason. Well, the time will come when your opportunity to help that person will be gone! All I can do is to ask the Lord to hold me and strengthen me and help me — so, that's what I do — and that's what He does. These are very dark days for me. Don't kid and flatter yourselves about my commitment to this ministry, though. The Lord is all we have to overcome our grief — and He's all I need; you might want to look into that....

13 My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste:

14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

15 Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place:

16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

~ Because seven denotes *completeness* in the Word of God, this means man is completely fallen. Simon Peter fell many times — constantly; and three of those times were denying the Lord Jesus. Well, in the end, Peter

contributed to the Word of God. Have you ever felt like telling the Lord you just want to start over again? Judas fell into fatal mischief for just one more paycheck. Jesus would have accepted and forgiven Judas if Judas had simply come back to Him after betraying Him, confessed what he had done, and repented. But, no — Judas took his own life. God didn't have anything to do with that. I know I have failed the Lord many times, in myriad ways; but, through confession, Christ cleanses me from all unrighteousness! How wonderful it is that our Heavenly Father has provided what He has — our Savior....

17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

18 Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

19 Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked;

20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

21 My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:

22 For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?

23 These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

24 He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:

25 But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.

26 Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer.

27 Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

28 Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.

29 Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

30 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.

~ Because the Lord repeats these spiritual truths so many different times and in so many differing ways, we should really get the message that these are the things God wants us to know. The feeding of the five thousand is recorded in all four Gospel accounts, friends. Each retelling adds some very peculiar spiritual truth related directly to the theme of that particular Gospel. All of these proverbs need to be considered, examined, repeated and emphasized properly, correctly and completely. We're talking about the things which belong to the wise. Every credible and serious student of Scripture is going to have to have a firm grasp on these truths before he will be permitted to graduate from God's University. Further, if you are a lazy Christian, that will be the biggest handicap in and detriment to your life. This has no respect to individuals in judgment; some make the grade, and some do not. To know the Word of God takes diligence, prayer, Bible study, effort, patience, determination, commitment, focus — and agonizing in prayer. Many are called — few are chosen....

32 Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

34 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man ~

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