

Instruction, Wealth, & Power

Puritan Reformed Church - Pastor David Reece

Lord's Day December 25th, Anno Domini 2022

Acceptable Sacrifice of Praise - Psalms 110, 123

PROVERBS 22:1-22:16 - Wealth, Power, & Moral Instruction

22:1-22:9 - The Lord's Sovereignty & Wealth

22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,

Loving favor rather than silver and gold.

- 1) Introduction - Reputation better than wealth
- 2) If you have to choose between good reputation or money, pick good reputation.
- 3) A good reputation cannot always be purchased. When it can be, then it is very expensive (branding). Good branding/reputation makes doing business easy.
- 4) A good reputation generally allows for money to be made more easily.
- 5) Good reputation glorifies the Lord, and makes your testimony more credible.
Good reputation is a force multiplier. The favor of God and Man are each better than spending money or Capital. God's favor is THE force multiplier.

2 The rich and the poor have this in common,

The Lord is the maker of them all.

3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself,

But the simple pass on and are punished [fined].

4 By humility and the fear of the Lord

Are riches and honor and life.

- 6) God's Power Over Money & Human Accountability
- 7) V. 2 - Wealth encourages pride and the wealthy can often think of themselves as better than the poor. The poor can hate the rich and seek to use tyranny or crime to take the wealth of the wealthy. We are reminded that we are all creatures, we are all under the law of God, we are all accountable for how we behave with our given stations.
- 8) V. 3 - The wise see evil/harms and avoid the evil/harms. The simple continue on without avoiding the harm/evil and suffer economic loss as a part of the result - the stupid tax. - I have paid the stupid tax on many many things.
- 9) V. 4 - The simple can become wise by being humble (acknowledging their own gullibility), and seeing the relationship between themselves and others and God and circumstances rightly and thus come to a fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. Then from the starting point of wisdom one can increase in wisdom and increase in applying wisdom to grow in wealth, reputation, and life (wisdom)

5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse;

He who guards his soul will be far from them.

6 Train up a child in the way he should go,

And [Even] when he is old he will not depart from it.

10) Center: Education of Youth in the right way

11) V. 5 - The curse brings Toil (fruitless labor), Strife (conflict and difficulty in relationship), physical death (physical breakdown and pain and the separation of body and spirit). Thorns are the natural curse of toil extended to cause pain and death, and snares are strife extended to cause pain and death. The perverse cause reality, both personal and impersonal reality, to work against themselves. The wise cause reality to cooperate with them by the application of the Law of God, and thus toil and thorns are removed from the wise and strife and snares are removed from the wise. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil.

12) V. 6 - If you give training (doctrine, rebuke, correction, and discipline) in the Word to a child, then the child will continue in the way of righteousness even into old age. There is no greater joy than to see your children walk in the truth. This process is costly and hard, but it is worth it. This cannot be compromised on.

a) Every adult - parent, grandparent, or one who interacts with parents or children - Please read or Listen to J.C. Ryle's "Duties of Parents"

7 The rich rules over the poor,

And the borrower is servant to the lender.

8 He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, [trouble]

And the rod of his anger will fail.

9 He who has a generous [Lit. good] eye will be blessed,

For he gives of his bread to the poor.

13) The Lord punishes the rich and rewards the generous

14) V. 7 - This is simply the reality. The rich hire the poor to work. This hiring is the creation of a servant / master relationship. The one with the money determines the work to be hired, and the one who accepts the hire agrees to serve the one who pays. That is the exchange. In a less direct way, if you borrow money and agree to pay it back, then you agree to work to be able to repay the amount at risk of the loss of security or even freedom. Wage labor is a more direct control and service than debt. Debt holders tend to allow you to do what you want as long as you can pay income high enough and can pay the debt on schedule. Dominion is increased as wealth is increased and Christian rule increases as Christians learn to build up capital and be able to hire people to do Godly work.

- 15) V. 8 - **He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, [trouble] And the rod of his anger will fail.** - whereas wise dominion work yields profit, working evil will ultimately reap sorrow and failure and trouble.
- a) You reap what you sow. This applies in relationships - even relationships of authority.
 - b) If you use the rod in anger rather than with judicious restraint and enduring consistency for the good of the one under authority, then the rod itself will fail.
- 16) V. 9 - **He who has a generous [Lit. good] eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor.** - Having a good eye is having an eye that sees clearly and that looks upon others with good (love - seeking the good of the object).
- a) Loving others is costly, but it yields a wonderful return, it brings great blessing.
 - b) Generosity is an investment, it is a lending to the Lord. The Lord pays amazing returns of interest.
 - c) Charity starts at home. If you want to be charitable outside of the home, first make sure you are doing your duties in your home.

22:10-16 - Wealth & Moral Instruction

10 Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave;

Yes, strife and reproach will cease.

11 He who loves purity of heart

And has grace on his lips,

The king will be his friend.

17) Introduction - The King's Friends

18) V. 10 - Priestly Work - Guard relational spheres, defend the holy, cast out the profane - If you have a scoffer in your sphere of authority who will not heed teaching, correction, rebuke, and discipline, then save the institution by casting out the scoffer. Apply due process. Give opportunity for repentance and restitution. If the case is clear and there is no repentance, then cast out the scoffer. This will put an end to the curse of strife and the reproach of shame and toil that have come upon that institution.

19) V. 11 - Priestly Work - nurture relationship with the lawful authority by good service, integrity, humility, and words of honor. You in authority, be sure to reward the honorable. Words of praise, gifts of resources, increasing presence and time with positive countenance.

- a) Purity of heart, Grace on the lips

**12 The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge,
But He overthrows the words of the faithless.**

**13 The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside!
I shall be slain in the streets!"**

**14 The mouth of an immoral woman is a deep pit;
He who is abhorred by the Lord will fall there.**

20) Body - Truth & Treachery in Providence

21) V. 12 - God will govern history so that truth is known - He will fill the earth with the knowledge of Him as the waters cover the sea. God will remove the faithless from power.

22) V. 13 - Laziness and cowardice are correlated. Excuses, especially outlandish excuses are a sign of laziness and of cowardice.

23) V. 14 - Harlots flatter, say lusty things, and use their mouths in seductive ways like kissing and sexual acts outside of marriage. God uses a seductress to trap the wicked and keep them from power and honor. God uses sin in this way in relation to every commandment. There are inherent self-destructive tendencies in all sin. The law teaches us how to govern ourselves to advance our own position. It is for our Good. The law is an instruction manual for dominion over the flesh, the world, and the devil.

**15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;
The rod of correction will drive it far from him.**

**16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his riches,
And he who gives to the rich, will surely come to poverty.**

24) Conclusion - Moral Instruction & Wealth

25) V. 15 - Fools need pain discipline to free them from foolishness.

26) V. 16 - Taking from the poor is not the way to wealth. Giving to the rich is not a wise way to gain favor.