

# THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

*Riches & Poverty*

# Proverbs on Riches & Poverty

## INTRODUCTION:

Problems associated with money and possessions have always been present and will continue as long as this world continues. The Proverbs give timeless advice on materialism, covetousness, poverty, deprivation, liberality and greed. Let us learn and apply the wisdom given on the subject.

## I. CHARACTER OF RICHES

- A. Riches help avoid destructive circumstances that the poor cannot avoid (**10:15**).
- B. Riches are deceitful - cannot trust them (**11:28**, **18:11**, **23:4-5**).

## II. RICHES ARE NOT EVERYTHING

- A. Unlike earthly riches, God's blessings will make you rich without accompanying sorrows (**10:22, 15:16, 15:17**)
- B. A gracious woman obtains the riches of honor (**11:16, 11:22**)
- C. You can be poor but truly wealthy (**13:7, 13:8**)
- D. Wisdom and understanding are more valuable than gold and silver (**16:16, 20:15, 28:11**)
- E. Poverty with integrity is better than riches with perverseness (**16:8, 16:19, 28:6**)
- F. A good reputation is more valuable than riches (**22:1**)

### III. SHARING OUR EARTHLY POSSESSIONS

- A. Liberal giving tends to gain, while stingy withholding tends to want (**11:24, 11:25, 18:16, 19:6**).
- B. Withholding from others brings curse upon you from others (**11:26, 14:28, 21:13**).
- C. Pity on the poor brings you happiness (**14:21, 19:17, 22:9, 28:27, 29:14**).

### IV. ATTITUDE TOWARD THE POOR AND RICH

- A. The poor are hated while the rich have friends (**14:20, 18:23, 19:4, 19:7**).
- B. Do not mock the poor (**17:5**).
- C. Rich and poor meet together in Jehovah (**22:2, 29:13**).
- D. Do not oppress the poor for you will be despoiled (**22:16, 22:22-23, 28:3, 28:8**).
- E. Promising words do not help the poor (**19:7, 19:22**).

## V. COVETING RICHES

- A. Greed brings trouble and ruin (**15:27, 20:21, 21:17, 28:20, 28:22, 28:25**).
- B. A characteristic of the oppressor, not the righteous (**28:16, 21:26, 29:7**).
- C. Can cloud one's thinking as to reality (**23:1-3, 23:6-8**).

# Questions for Proverbs about Riches & Poverty

1. Does God teach us that earthly riches have their *blessings*, and poverty their *curses* ?
2. What is faulty in trusting in riches as our city of strength?
3. Why is looking at riches like looking at something invisible?
4. What do blessings of God offer you that earthly possessions cannot deliver?
5. How can one be poor and have great wealth?

6. In 13:8, the poor hears no \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Why?
7. What type of wisdom is better than silver and gold?
8. In 22:1, what *two* things are more valuable than earthly riches?
9. Where in the New Testament is the principle of 11:25 found?
10. What *two* things are made by giving gifts?
11. If you refuse to hear the cry of the poor, what *two* things will happen?

12. Why should a prince see to the needs of the poor under his rule?
13. To whom are we lending when we have pity on the poor?
14. From what *two* unlikely sources does a poor man receive pain?
15. He who mocks the poor reproaches his \_\_\_\_\_.
16. In 29:13, how does Jehovah "lighten" the eyes of both the poor and the oppressor?
17. Explain what a needy man is when he oppresses the feeble poor?



18. He that obtains funds through oppression, is gathering them for whom?

19. What kind of “brethren” and “friends” are those presented in 19:7?

20. In 19:22, why is a poor man better than a liar?

21. What all does one fail to see when he is greedy for gain?

22. Name several things which will come to one as a consequence of his greed?

23. How can a prince who lacks understanding be oppressive due to his greed (28:16)?

**Thought Questions:** How can we teach our children proper values about material things while our society bombards them with materialistic values?

What is the basic character flaw that leads one to greediness?

How can a greedy and materialistic person change to become benevolent?

# THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

*Truth & Falsehood*

# Proverbs on Truth & Falsehood

## INTRODUCTION:

The Scriptures teach that God is characterized by truth and cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18). He is faithful despite the unfaithfulness of man (2 Tim. 2:13). One would expect God's inspired proverbs of wisdom to include admonitions to truthfulness and condemnations of falsehood.

## **I. LIES AND TRUTH - RULERS AND NEIGHBORS**

- A. Lying lips are an abomination to Jehovah, but dealing truly is Jehovah's delight (12:22).
- B. Lips of truth are established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment (12:19).
- C. Lying lips are not becoming to a prince (17:7).
- D. A king desiring falsehood will receive falsehood from servants (29:12).
- E. Lying lips hurts our neighbors (26:18-19; 26:28).

## **II. FALSE WITNESS - BACKBITER - SLANDERER AND FAITHFUL WITNESS**

- A. Faithful witness will not lie, but a worthless witness mocks at justice (14:5; 19:28).
- B. Harmful deceit is the character of the false witness (12:17; 14:25).
- C. The false witness wounds his neighbor (25:18; 24:28).
- D. The false witness will suffer (19:5, 9; 21:28; 25:23).

## **III. LYING LIPS AND HATRED**

- A. Hidden hatred leads to lying lips (10:18).
- B. Though guile hides hatred for a time, it will come out (26:24-26).

## **IV.FALSE AND JUST BALANCE AND WEIGHTS**

- A. Just weights are part of God's law (16:11).
- B. False weights are an abomination to Jehovah, but just weights are His delight (11:1; 20:10; 20:23).
- C. Deceitful trade practices condemned (20:14; 20:17; 21:6).

# Questions for Proverbs about Truth & Falsehood

1. How is God affected by the truthfulness of our words?
2. How long do truth and lies last?
3. What is not becoming to a ruler?
4. What effect does the King desiring falsehood have on his servants?

5. What is not lessened when deceit is manifested in jest?

5. If we lie concerning the actions of others, what do we actually feel?

6. Why is a witness worthless who mocks justice?

7. What will we manifest if righteousness is our goal?

8. What is a false witness in regard to his neighbor?



10. What can cause one to speak lies against his neighbor?

11. What is another way of saying that a false witness will not escape?

12. In 21:28, why will a man who "heareth" speak words that will endure?

13. A backbiting tongue will bring *what* from *whom*?

14. Express the following in other words: "*He that hideth hatred is of lying lips?*"

15. Are our business affairs outside of God's law?

16. How is God affected by our standards in business?

15. Does God forbid "haggling" over a price in 20:14?  
Explain.

16. Describe what it is like to gain something in business by deceit.

# PROVERBS

Wisdom Literature

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