

How to Make Life Work



WISDOM FROM PROVERBS

Wisdom and Wealth

Proverbs 22



Proverbs 22:1-2

¹ A good name is more desirable than great riches;
to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

² Rich and poor have this in common:
The LORD is the Maker of them all.



Proverbs 22:3-4

³ The prudent see danger and take refuge,
but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.

⁴ Humility is the fear of the LORD;
its wages are riches and honor and life.



Proverbs 22:7-9

⁷ The rich rule over the poor,
and the borrower is slave to the lender.

⁸ Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity,
and the rod they wield in fury will be broken.

⁹ The generous will themselves be blessed,
for they share their food with the poor.



Proverbs 22:13, 16

¹³ The sluggard says, “There’s a lion outside!
I’ll be killed in the public square!”

¹⁶ One who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth
and one who gives gifts to the rich—both come to
poverty.



Proverbs 22:22-23

²² Do not exploit the poor because they are poor
and do not crush the needy in court,

²³ for the LORD will take up their case
and will exact life for life.



Proverbs 22:26-27

²⁶ Do not be one who shakes hands in pledge
or puts up security for debts;

²⁷ if you lack the means to pay,
your very bed will be snatched from under you.



Wisdom for Wealth

Ten Principles from Proverbs



1. Watch out for the extremes.

Proverbs 30:7-9



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Proverbs 30:7-9

⁷ "Two things I ask of you, LORD;
do not refuse me before I die:

⁸ Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.

⁹ Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, 'Who is the LORD?'

Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God.



2. There's better business than "show business."

Proverbs 12:9; 13:7



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Prov. 12:9 Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food.

Prov. 13:7 One person pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.



The
SNEETCHES

AND
OTHER
STORIES



By
Dr. Seuss



3. The rich and poor are not that different.

Proverbs 22:2; 29:13; James 2:1-4, 9



3. The rich and poor are not that different.

Prov. 22:2 Rich and poor have this in common:

The Lord is the Maker of them all.

Prov. 29:13 The poor and the oppressor have this in common: the Lord gives sight to the eyes of both.



3. The rich and poor are not that different.

James 2:1-4, 9

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in.



3. The rich and poor are not that different.

James 2:1-4, 9

³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ...

⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.



4. You cannot outgive God.

Selected Proverbs



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Proverbs 3:9-10

⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth,

with the firstfruits of all your crops;

¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing,

and your vats will brim over with new wine.



4. You cannot outgive God.

Matthew 6:31-33 ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



4. You cannot outgive God.

Proverbs 11:24-25

²⁴ One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

²⁵ A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.



4. You cannot outgive God.

Proverbs 22:9

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for they share their food with the poor.



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Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?



5. Poverty stinks. Prosperity's sweet.

Proverbs 10:15; 14:20; 19:4



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Prov. 19:4 Wealth attracts many friends,
but even the closest friend of the poor person deserts
them.



6. Wealth can't provide you with ultimate security.

Proverbs 18:11; 11:28; 13:8; Matthew 6:19-21



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Prov. 13:8 (ESV) The ransom of a man's life is his wealth,
but a poor man hears no threat.



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Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



7. God hates those who get rich by injustice.

Proverbs 21:6; 22:16, 22-23



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Prov. 22:22-23 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor, and do not crush the needy in court,
²³ for the LORD will take up their case
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8. God loves those who are generous to the poor.

Selected Proverbs



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Prov. 14:31 Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.



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but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy.

Prov. 14:31 Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Prov. 28:27 Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.





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Ways to do this:

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- Donate to the food pantry.



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- Donate to the food pantry.
- Support compassion ministries.



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Prov. 19:17 Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will reward them for what they have done.



9. Hard work and wise decision making usually lead to increased wealth.

Selected Proverbs



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Prov. 6:6-11

⁶ Go to the ant, you sluggard;
consider its ways and be wise!

⁷ It has no commander,
no overseer or ruler,

⁸ yet it stores its provisions in summer
and gathers its food at harvest.



9. Hard work and wise decision making usually lead to increased wealth.

Prov. 6:6-11

⁹ How long will you lie there, you sluggard?

When will you get up from your sleep?

¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber,

a little folding of the hands to rest—

¹¹ and poverty will come on you like a thief

and scarcity like an armed man.



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Prov. 13:11 Dishonest money dwindles away,
but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.



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Prov. 14:24 The wealth of the wise is their crown,
but the folly of fools yields folly.



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Prov. 28:20 A faithful person will be richly blessed,
but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

(*ESV*: "...one who hastens to be rich...")



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Prov. 28:20 A faithful person will be richly blessed,
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Prov. 27:23-24

²³ Be sure you know the condition of your flocks,
give careful attention to your herds;

²⁴ for riches do not endure forever,
and a crown is not secure for all generations.



10. There are things better than wealth.
Money doesn't satisfy.

Selected Proverbs



10. There are things better than wealth. Money doesn't satisfy.

Prov. 23:4-5

⁴ Do not wear yourself out to get rich;
do not trust your own cleverness.

⁵ Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone,
for they will surely sprout wings
and fly off to the sky like an eagle.



Things better than wealth

Wisdom

Prov. 8:10-11

¹⁰ Choose my instruction instead of silver,
knowledge rather than choice gold,

¹¹ for wisdom is more precious than rubies,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.



Things better than wealth

Wisdom

Prov. 8:19

My fruit is better than fine gold;
what I yield surpasses choice silver.



Things better than wealth

Righteousness

Prov. 10:2 Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value,
but righteousness delivers from death.



Things better than wealth

Righteousness

Prov. 10:2 Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value,
but righteousness delivers from death.

Prov. 11:4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath,
but righteousness delivers from death.



Things better than wealth

Integrity and truth

Prov. 19:22 What a person desires is unfailing love;
better to be poor than a liar.



Things better than wealth

Integrity and truth

Prov. 19:22 What a person desires is unfailing love;
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Prov. 20:17 Food gained by fraud tastes sweet,
but one ends up with a mouth full of gravel.



Things better than wealth

Integrity and truth

Prov. 28:6 Better the poor whose walk is blameless
than the rich whose ways are perverse.



Things better than wealth

The fear of the Lord

Prov. 15:16 Better a little with the fear of the LORD
than great wealth with turmoil.



Things better than wealth

Humility

Prov. 16:19 Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.



Things better than wealth

Good relationships

Prov. 16:19 Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred.



Things better than wealth

Good relationships

Prov. 16:19 Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred.

Prov. 17:1 Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.





“You cannot understand the Biblical view of money, especially in the book of Proverbs, unless you are prepared to hold a number of truths in tension.

- You’ll probably acquire more money if you work hard and are full of wisdom. But if all you care about is money, then you are the biggest fool.
- Money is a blessing from God, but you’ll be more blessed if you give it away.
- God gives you money because He is generous, and He is generous so you can be generous with others. And then, if you are generous with others, God will likely be more generous still with you.



- It is wise to save money and work hard for money, but don't ever think that money can give you security.
- Wealth is more desirable than poverty, but wealth is not as good as righteousness or humility or wisdom or relationships or the fear of the Lord..."

Money can't give you any of the things you ultimately need. It can't make you holy. It can't make you righteous. It can't save you from your sins. Wealth is a sign of blessing, but it's also one of your biggest temptations because it entices you to boast in yourself. It promises to be your self-worth and promises to make you self-sufficient. It invites you to boast in something or someone other than the Lord.



So through and through, money is an issue of faith. Believe that doing things God's way is the best way for you. Believe that if you give your money away, he can give it back. Believe that money can be good. But don't you dare believe it is everything. Money is a gift from God, but the gifts you really need can only be found in God."

— Kevin DeYoung

Consider Christ

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

