

Message #121

Proverbs 28:17-22

**WISE PEOPLE CHOOSE TO LIVE IN A WISE MANNER WHEN IT COMES TO FINANCES BECAUSE THEY REALIZE THAT THIS WILL BRING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD.**

The particular wisdom issue being discussed in this context is that of money (28:16, 19-22).

**WISDOM PRINCIPLE #1** – A wise person will not have anything to do with ruthless money-hungry people. **28:17**

The phrase “laden with the guilt of human blood” is one that may be connected to money because it refers to one who proudly, violently and unjustly takes something by force. It describes one that will use any possible means in order to increase things for self. Two promises are made to this type of person:

- 1) He will flee to the pit (“be a fugitive until death”). Pit in the O.T. is used three ways:
  - A. A cistern which sometimes served as a jail (Zech. 9:11);
  - B. A prison (Is. 24:22; Jer. 38:6).
  - C. A death, specifically a tomb (Is. 14:19; 38:18; Psalm 28:1; 30:3; 88:4-5).

A person who uses violence to get more is heading to bondage, imprisonment and death.

- 2) He will not be supported. No one is to aid or support one who is this type of person.

**WISDOM PRINCIPLE #2** – A wise person will be blameless, not crooked. **28:18**

The context is money, so one way to do business is in an upright way and the other is crooked. The upright person will stand, whereas the crooked will fall quickly.

**WISDOM PRINCIPLE #3** – A wise person works hard at his work and does not follow empty people or pursuits. **28:19**

The word “plenty” is one that means one will have abundance to the point of satisfaction. It is hard work that leads to prosperity, whereas fantasy dreamers and schemers end up in poverty.

**WISDOM PRINCIPLE #4** – A wise person realizes God blesses those faithful, not those greedy. **28:20**

The word “blessings” speaks of a sacred invocation of good blessings pronounced by God. Notice carefully who it is that God blesses, not one who sets his sights on riches, but one who sets his sights on faithfulness.

**WISDOM PRINCIPLE #5** – A wise person does not show partiality to one because of money. **28:21**

The words “show partiality” literally mean admire someone to a stupefied level. Most rich people will do anything if it will increase their profits, including transgress the ways of God.

**WISDOM PRINCIPLE #6** – A wise person does not hasten to be rich. **28:22**

Wise people do not devote themselves to money; they devote themselves to God.