

Intro: Testimony after dropping out of Dentistry. The Dangers of a Material World.

1. His Audience (1-2)

- ⇒ Universal: low & high, rich & poor alike must take heed!
- ⇒ Rich & poor alike are tempted to *trust* in riches rather than God ('the rich have an advantage b/c they at least know \$ can't buy them happiness')

2. His Aim (3-4)

- a) "Wisdom" – skill in living (i.e. following God's design for His creation). In Prov., 'wisdom' is the 'way' that leads to life (cf. 3:18, 'tree of life'). This is possible only by a proper "fear of the LORD" (1:7). Thru-out, reverence for God & reliance upon Him are set forth as the path to life, prosperity & security – the happy life that He fashioned the creation to produce.
 - ⇒ Cf. the "fool" who shuns the way of the wise; folly the 'way' to death. Such are unwilling to learn ('hate knowledge' & 'correction') *or* are complacent in their confidence that everything will turn out all right (i.e. they trust in themselves rather than in God [cf. Psa. 14:1]).
- b) "Understanding" – discrimination to make right decisions in light of Truth.

⇒ "Proverbs assumes that you cannot make sense of the world or live a full & successful life unless you see God behind it & involved in it, and seek understanding of it from God w/ reverence & humility" (Goldingay).

3. His Assertion: Lay up Your Treasures in Heaven (5-20)

Advice to the [Wealthy] Wicked – Wake up!

- 1. Despite Hollywood, no amount of \$\$ can extend our life for a moment (7-9)¹
- 2. All men die alike & leave their money to others (10)
- 3. Their 'eternal' earthly dwelling place will not be their mansions (11) → cf. MT!
- 4. Like the beasts of the earth all people return to the dust they came from (12)
- 5. Like blind sheep, the follow their shepherd, Death (14)

Assurance to the Persecuted [Poor] – Cheer up!

- 1. *God* has provided the infinite cost to purchase eternal life (15) → cf. 7-9
- 2. 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Acts 3:6 ('silver & gold...none'); 8:18 (Simon the Sorcerer)
- 3. *God* is our Shepherd who takes us to Himself (cf. v.14)
- 4. Riches can't buy us the "the light [of day]" after we die (v.19).
 - Light is a figure for blessing & fullness of life. All that is over. There is no possibility of seeing it again. Once the tomb is closed, you are in the dark.

So What?

- 1. What is your hope in this life? To have more of God, or to gain more gold?
 - ⇒ Luke 12:16-21 (the rich fool & his barns); 1 Tim. 6:17 (turn to during Lk.)
- 2. How are *we* using our money & talents? Pause to let them take inventory!!!
 - Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 16:1-13 (shrewd manager); 19-31 (rich man & Lazarus).
- 3. Tell others the futility of living for this world only!
- 4. A warning to the rich: 'how hard it is for the *rich* [not lovers of \$] to enter KOH'
- 5. A blessing for the poor in spirit: Rev. 2:9 (cf. Col. 1:27)

¹ "Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes the hope of the godless" (Job 8:13).
"For what hope has the godless when he is cut off, when God takes away his life" (Job 27:8)