

**Message #30****Proverbs 10:15-22**

Solomon was a very wealthy man. The Queen of Sheba gave Solomon, in one gift, gold which has been calculated as being worth approximately 4.8 million dollars (I Kings 10:8-10). There is no doubt that Solomon was big business, yet he knew that his money and power were not the important issues; but what was important was his relationship to God.

**GOD GIVES HIS WEALTH AND HIS BLESSINGS TO THOSE WHO OBEY HIS WORD, PARTICULARLY IN THEIR SPEECH HABITS.**

I don't see money a real issue in this text in determining wealth. I see obedience to God as the real issue in determining how wealthy one is, particularly obedience in the arena of what one says to and about other people.

**OBSERVATION #1 – Finances do not determine wealth. 10:15**

There is a major controversy surrounding this verse—is the “rich” man one who is good or bad? Those who hold the rich man is good believe the poor man is lazy and refuses to work and therefore came to poverty. Those who believe the rich man is bad make the “poor” right with God and who will eventually come to blessing. It is possible the rich man is not right with God: 1) Solomon's theology—the word “fortress” used by Solomon to describe a safe relationship with God, not with money (Ps. 52:7); 2) Solomon's exegesis—Solomon uses this very construction again in Proverbs and the “rich man's wealth” is not a complement (Prov. 18:10-12); 3) Solomon's contextual point—there are two types of people—one who thinks he is rich and one who sees himself as poor.

**OBSERVATION #2 – Righteousness does determine wealth. 10:16**

The Hebrew words “wages/labor” and “income/fruit” are labor terms. They have to do with being paid for a job, meaningful life. The word “life” is plural in the Hebrew text, which speaks of an abundant, full life. Whatever the dream, aspiration or goal, without God it will miss the mark and fall short of your expectation.

**OBSERVATION #3 – Attitude toward instruction determines wealth. 10:17**

The one on the road to God's blessings is learning and applying the instruction and disciplines of God.

**OBSERVATION #4 – Speech determines wealth. 10:18-21**

**Person #1** - The speech habits of a person on the road to poverty.

**(Characteristic #1)** - He tries to hide hatred by lying. 10:18a

**(Characteristic #2)** - He will be quick to gossip. 10:18b

**(Characteristic #3)** - He will be unrestrainable. 10:19a

**(Characteristic #4)** - He will be worthless. **10:20b**

**(Characteristic #5)** - He died in ignorance. **10:21b**

**Person #2** - The speech habits of a person on the road to prosperity.

**(Characteristic #1)** - He will control his speech. **10:19b**

**(Characteristic #2)** - He will produce valuable speech. **10:20a**

**(Characteristic #3)** - He will produce nourishing speech. **10:21a**

**OBSERVATION #5** – God determines who receives wealth. **10:22**

God determines who it is He will bless. A person may have condos, big businesses and fancy cars. He may own land and houses and be worth millions, but he may be wretchedly poor in the sight of God.