

How to Build Wealth and Give Life
Proverbs 10:1-11
Berean Baptist Church
Pastor Skylar Bernick

Introduction

How can we build wealth in a way that God will bless? How can care for others in a way that will do them lasting good? Proverbs, the Doctrine of Life, has helpful and lasting answers.

Put God first, work hard, be just, teachable, and transparent and you will be a wellspring of life and health for your family.

Proverbs 10:1-5 Wealth Building Wisdom

Vs 1 and Vs 5 bookend this section on how the wise and the fool each impact the physical well being their own families. The wise make their family flourish and fool bring their families to ruin.

Vs 1 Wisdom and foolishness is not just about you. If you chose to be wise you will bring joy to those who love you and if you chose foolishness you will bring sorrow to those who love you.

When making decisions, remember you are not only one impacted by the pattern of your life!

Vs 2-3 Wisdom and physical blessings are wonderful to have, but a rich person who is also wicked may as well be poor; *seek first the Kingdom of God*. Riches will not protect you in the day of God's wrath, but righteousness will! Just our Lord asked "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:36)."

Can riches save a person from dying? No! But, "righteousness delivereth from death." This is not just true in the daily sense that righteous living is more stable and safe the evil, but also in the eternal sense. Those who have God's righteousness by believing in Jesus will never see death

Jesus said, "...whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die...(John 11:26)."

God upholds the righteousness even if they have nothing, and God destroys the wicked even if they have everything.

Enjoy God's physical blessing, but prioritize righteousness!

VS 4-5 Laziness leads to poverty, hard work leads to wealth. There's no trick and there's no hack; work hard or poverty will come to your house and kick in your door and throw you out on the street (Prov 6:11, 24:34).

Now there are profligates. These are people that, one way or another, just fall into wealth and use it to live lazy wasteful lives. But these rare people are truly the most miserable because they are given extraordinary resources and they squandered those riches chasing things that give no lasting peace.

Like a man dying of thirst in the middle of the ocean, they can gorge themselves on what they have in abundance but it will only harm them more.

Discipline builds real wealth, and teaches us how to enjoy it rightly. But laziness destroys wealth. And this is not just personal wealth, this is also true about the wealth of a family.

The wise son gathers at the right time, even when it is hot. And the lazy son causes shame to

If you want to be physically blessed by God and be a physical blessing to your family, prioritize

righteousness and work hard!

Proverbs 10:6-11 Life-Giving Wisdom

This section also has bookend parallel verses. Vs 6 and 11 in this section on the righteousness and the wicked, and the middle of this section links it to the section on wisdom and foolishness in Vs 1-5; the wise is also righteous and the fool is also wicked.

Vs 6-7 There is a strong connection between blessings and righteousness, as well as a strong connection between wickedness and violence. And the connections in Vs 6 are not just true in this moment. **Vs 7** shows this blessedness that comes with righteousness is lasting; it will be remembered. But wickedness leads to violence and finally to rotting away.

Vs 8 Prating is babbling or chatter, it means useless talk. The picture is that by his own mouth a fool is cast down and destroyed. Contrast the actions of the wise with the actions of the fool. The wise receives commandments into his inner-person, the fool pours out foolishness from his mouth to his own destruction.

Vs 9 “uprightly” in Proverbs means with integrity, simplicity, or strength of character. The upright communicates honestly and transparently, and this leads to a secure life. The first half of Vs 9 literally reads: "walker in integrity walk in trust."

Vs 10 “Wink” in the Old Testament describes evil communication done in secret (Prov 6:13, Psl 35:19) Picture two people walking beside someone, they plan to beat and rob the unsuspecting victim, and agree that a wink will be the signal to attack. This “winking” is the exact opposite of “walking uprightly” in Vs 9

Vs 10 “but a prating fool shall fall.” Although they secretly conspire to harm someone else, their own loose lips will eventually bring them down.

Vs 11 Note the parallel between Vs 11 and Vs 6 indicating the end of this thought unit. This is a powerful summary of the difference between righteousness and the wicked. The speech of the good pours out life for himself and those around him, but the speech of the evil brings down violence on himself and those around him.

Do justice, receive instruction, walk in integrity, and you will be a well of life, sustaining those you love.

Pervert justice, talk more than you listen (prating), plan secret evil, and you will fall terribly and be buried under violence.

CONCLUSION

God wants you to know how to build wealth and well being for yourself and those He gives you to care for. He does not promise riches and ease. Hardship often provides the best training and lasting spiritual rewards (Rom 5:1-6). But God has not made the path to well being a mystery:

Put God first, work hard, be just, teachable, and transparent and you will be a well-spring of life and health for your family.