



# WISDOM THAT WORKS

A Study in Proverbs

Feb 15 - Aug 15

# Contentment

Proverbs 17:1

## Proverbs 17:1

Better is a dry morsel with quiet  
than a house full of feasting with  
strife.

## Proverbs 12:9

Better to be lowly and have a  
servant than to play the great  
man and lack bread.

## Proverbs 15:16-17

Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it.

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

## Proverbs 16:8

Better is a little with  
righteousness than great  
revenues with injustice.

## Proverbs 28:6

Better is a poor man who walks  
in his integrity than a rich man  
who is crooked in his ways.

## Wealth

- Good
  - 8 “Better is” statements in Proverbs
  - 6 deal with contentment
    - Proverbs 17:1 - peace
    - Proverbs 12:9 - humility
    - Proverbs 15:16-17 – love, fear of God
    - Proverbs 16:8 - righteousness
    - Proverbs 28:6 - integrity

## Wealth

- Good
- Greed
  - Love of money brings discontentment
    - Proverbs 27:20
    - Ecclesiastes 5:10, 12
  - Contentment transcends wealth
    - Philippians 4:11-13
    - *Arkeo* – sufficient, enough, satisfied

Wealth is irrelevant in light of  
things that matter more:  
peace, humility, love, fear of  
God, righteousness, and integrity

## 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

## Wealth

- Good
- Greed
- Generosity
  - 2 Corinthians 9:8-11
  - Provision
  - Purpose

What does it mean to be content with God's provision? It means that when you and I are safely hidden with Christ in God through faith in his gospel, we are opened up to the others around us.

– Michael Horton

## Proverbs 28:25

A greedy man stirs up strife,  
but the one who trusts in  
the LORD will be enriched.

## Proverbs 30:8-9

Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

## Trust

- Sufficient
  - Trust in God is antidote to greed (Prov 28:25)
  - Not poverty or apathy (Prov 30:8-9)

## Colossians 3:1-5

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

## Trust

- Sufficient
- Spiritual Battle
  - Focus (Colossians 3:1-5)
    - Material or spiritual?
    - In what do we trust?
  - Confidence (Hebrews 13:5)
    - Love of money supplants love for God
    - Question God's provision

## 1 Timothy 6:6-8

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

## Trust

- Spiritual Battle
  - Godliness (1 Timothy 6:6-8)
    - “True sufficiency is Christ-sufficiency” - Lea
    - Godliness without contentment?
    - Disenchanted with God’s lack of provision

A self-centered man is a  
discontented man.

- John MacArthur

## 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

## Trust

- Sufficient
- Spiritual Battle
  - Focus (Colossians 3:1-5)
  - Confidence (Hebrews 13:5)
  - Godliness (1 Timothy 6:6-8)
  - Weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
    - God's grace is sufficient

## Contentment

- Only possible through Christ (Phil 4:13)
- What are you trusting to satisfy?
- Job:  
“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;  
blessed be the name of the Lord.”



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