

Wealth That Matters

We are drowning at the hands of corrupt men with no principles!

TEXT: Proverbs 3: 1-10 *A life of divine communion*

1. THE GENESIS OF TRUE PROSPERITY:

- A. God's Word above all! (Vs. 1 - All well & good until the Holy Ghost gores my "pet ox"!)
 - B. Quality of life (vs. 2-3) Mercy & Truth the key... money & power mean nothing!
 - 1. A visible testimony ("*bind them about thy neck*")
 - 2. Heartfelt conviction ("*write them upon the tables [rule-book] of thy heart*")
- C. An honorable reputation (vs. 4)

2. THE PREEMINENCE OF GOD'S PLAN:

- A. Continual regard for God's providence (vs. 5)
 - 1. Trust (faith) that forsakes self (total - "*with all thy heart*" - Psalms 19: 14)
 - 2. He is able to care for you, and wise to do what's best!
- B. Our response? "**Jesus Saviour, Pilot Me!**" (vs. 6 - "*Steps of a good man...*" - Ps. 37: 23)

3. THE PRESCRIPTION IS HUMILITY & CLEANLINESS!

- A. Begins with an honest evaluation & fear of self! (vs.7)
 - 1. Danger of an exaggerated sense of pride
 - 2. Depart (meaning "you're already there!") from evil
- B. The immeasurable value of its results! (vs. 8)
 - 1. "*Health to thy navel*" ?
 - a. Before birth - the umbilical cord sustained your life in the womb
 - b. Now - It is the "marked spot" of where life began & the center of your being
 - 2. "*Marrow to thy bones*" ?
 - * Marrow is the substance that refreshes, replenishes, strengthens the red blood cells!
(*"Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life"* Proverbs 4: 23)

4. LEARN THE JOY OF GIVING! (*"It is more blessed to give than to receive..."* Acts 20: 35)

- A. Make a present of what is yours, to God! (vs. 9)
 - * The "First-Fruits" are the blessings... off the top!
- B. Being so honored, God will honor you! (vs. 10)
 - 1. Barns filled with plenty! ("*every need He is supplying...*" - Phil. 4: 19)
 - 2. "Presses" (your "work") burst out with "new wine" Biblically, wine represents Joy!

TONIGHT: Having looked within, how is your "health" - your "joy" ?