

## PROSPERITY PREACHIN'

*"Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous."  
-- Proverbs 13:21*

What comes to mind when you hear the word "prosperous?" (ask for 1-word answers)

What, exactly, is prosperity, and how do we attain it?

In tonight's Bible study from Proverbs, we will look for the practical keys to becoming more prosperous.

Keep in mind ... prosperity is more than just having WEALTH! (18:11-12; 19:8)

> did you notice? "they IMAGINE ..."

> More than \$\$\$ -- WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING lead to prosperity!

### 10 Keys to Prosperity

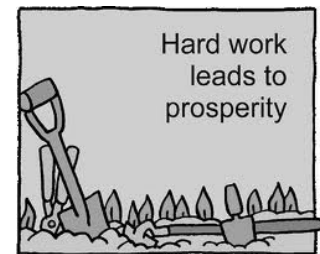
1. HARD WORK vs. LAZINESS. {6:6-10; 12:11; 14:23; 21:17; 22:13; 26:13-18}

> List all of the alternatives to hard work:

- \* SLEEP      \* FANTASIES = EASY MONEY
- \* Mere WORDS   \* PLEASURES   \* EXCUSES

> Are these "alternatives" sins?

> Why should work be hard? (cf. Genesis 3:17-19)



2. INVESTMENT, PATIENCE, SAVING. {21:5}

> What's the best way to make money last? (13:11)

> A modern cliché that parallels 14:4 – "To make money, you have to SPEND MONEY."

> What are the dangers of "quick money?" (20:21)

> What does 22:26-27 warn of the dangers of DEBT.

3. CUNNING. {18:16}

> Do the proverbs encourage BRIBERY? (17:8; 21:14)

> Read 20:14. Are we encouraged to *be* "the buyer" or are we *warned about* "the buyer?"

> Key: To prosper, we need to have COMMON SENSE and PEOPLE SENSE.

4. STEWARDSHIP. {27:23-27}

> We need to MAKE THE MOST of what we have. (12:27)

-- cf. "The parable of the talents" Mt. 25:14-30

5. GENEROSITY. {21:13; 28:27}

> Don't break the "Giving Cycle": We give → to get → to give → to get ...

-- what happens if we do? (11:24-26)

> What are you doing when you give to the poor? LENDING to the Lord (19:17)

6. Being WARY of WEALTH.

- > Is 19:4 encouraging us or WARNING us?
- > Do you know people who “wear themselves out” seeking riches? Why is this bad? (23:4-5)
- > What will happen to the person who is eager for riches? He will be PUNISHED (28:20)
- > According to 30:7-9, are riches bad? Why or why not?

#### 7. HUMILITY. {13:7}

- > **ill: Donnie Alewine at the car auction.**
- > Why is it better not to “show wealth?” (see v.8)

#### 8. CHEERFULNESS, LOVE & ATTITUDE. {15:15-17}

- > What do these verses say about the connection between wealth and happiness?

#### 9. TITHING. {3:9-10}

- > What measure of blessing is given to those who honor the Lord with their wealth?
  - \* Not just happiness, but FINANCIAL WEALTH.
  - \* More than YOU CAN HOLD.

#### 10. RIGHTEOUSNESS. {10:3; 17:20; 20:23}

- > “Prosperity” without honoring God brings no SATISFACTION! (20:17)
- > Wealth gained wrongly won’t be RETAINED! (28:8)
- > SIN trumps prosperity! (28:13)
- > What is the key to success? (16:3)

