

Psalm 49

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No one can exclude themselves from this message. Whether high or low, rich or poor, pull up a chair and have a seat. There is something important to learn.

Prosperity 101

The root of the psalmist's lesson is the futility of worldliness. The poor and the rich alike will leave this life the same way they entered it, empty-handed. He advises not to become over-awed or captivated by the temporal success of the wealthy.

Read Ecclesiastes 5:10.

What happens to those who love money?

Our world is full of those who *have* as well as those who *have-not*. Some of the *haves* have so much that it is easy for the *have-nots* to become *want-mores*. The psalmist warns us to guard our hearts and minds against the temptation that wanting more can have on our life.

Read Ecclesiastes 5:10.

What does Solomon call the love wealth?

Prosperity is a successful, flourishing, or thriving condition, especially in financial respects. It is important to note that prosperity relate to *any* condition, not just financial. The Bible has a lot to say about prosperity, but not all the references have to do with wealth. For our study, we want to learn to be successful, flourishing, and thriving in all areas of life, and we must learn to avoid becoming a *want-more*.

Make The Right Investment

Want-mores invest in the wrong thing—themselves. Is it wrong to want a better life? Absolutely not. My mother-in-law grew up dirt poor. She literally could see the stars through her roof and the dirt through her floor. When she married my father-in-law, they only had two pots—without lids. Even as they pinched pennies and then finally purchased a home without holes in the roof and floor, they shared their prosperity with others. My mother-in-law often baked cakes to give people for their birthday. She took meals to and cared for the sick. My father-in-law, a master-at-all trades, lent his talent and expertise to those in need. They invested in the right thing—others.

Proverbs 11:25.

What does generosity generate?

When we generously invest in others, God generously invests in us. Since my father-in-law passed away, my mother-in-law has lived quite comfortably. Is she comfortable only because she and my father-in-law provided for her later years? I would argue not. They recognized the source of true prosperity—God—and they chose to make the right investments in what mattered most—others.

Read Matthew 25:44-45.

Who does Jesus define as “the least of these?”

When we invest in others, we invest in Jesus. Investing can’t get any better than that!

ROI—Return On Investment

Read Galatians 6:7-10.

Summarize Paul’s message.

When we invest—or sow—we reap God’s blessings. And though sowing can be exhausting, we can’t forget that it has eternal value. Our reaping is an eternal investment as well. In God’s Kingdom, our Return On Investment is huge. Our reward for investing in eternal things will be super-sized when the Kingdom of God comes ~~down~~ to earth for all eternity.

Read 1 Timothy 6:18-19

What command are we to obey?

What is the heavenly result of our obedience?

It’s easy to say, “I don’t have anything to give.” Yet investing in others is not all about money. My in-laws raised four children on a single income, but each of them found ways to invest in God’s Kingdom by using their time, talents—and tithe—to help others. We’ve learned that using our time, talents, and tithe for the good of others not only advances the Kingdom of God but also helps us avoid becoming a *want-more*. But Joshua, Israel’s leader, learned a little something more about prosperity. He will teach the final Prosperity 101 lesson.

Read Joshua 1:8.

What did Joshua do that led to his prosperity?

Here he teaches us that filling our lives with God’s word leads to eternal prosperity and success. What more can we want?