

#98 A SPOKEN WORD.....

Over a period of several years this word was spoken or printed before me in various dreams.

“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it” (Proverbs 10:22 KJV).

This verse from Proverbs concerns God’s providential dealings with us. Let us not run too far with a literal meaning of all Christians being made monetarily rich. The covetous “name it and claim it” teachers love this verse. True, the exception could be that some Christians will be made rich for giving ministries, but not for personal luxury living and self-gratification. There are more Scriptures given in the New Testament against wealth than for it. Those who find themselves with financial abundance are held to greater accountability---along with strong warnings against the temptations to covetousness and idolatry. Actually the Word says some who have misused their wealth will drown in hell because of the many lusts they entertained with their riches. Remember those who seek authority, the public eye and the riches of this world are usually not fit for them.

Most of the rich of this world are wicked and selfish. Are their riches a blessing? Far from it, they are a curse. God’s blessing adds no sorrow with it or, as some translate, human toil or labor is not required for its bestowing.

The same book of Proverbs also says, “Labor not to be rich.” The apostle Paul states that many Christians are poor in this world but rich in faith. This really blows a hole in the name it and claim it group. They say if you have perfect faith you will have riches and all you desire---Paul said no such thing! Even our Lord in Revelation 2:9 said to one church, “I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich...)” Poverty is no sign of God’s approval in itself, yet is noble when caused by persecution or tribulation. Some think taking vows of poverty is noble---far from it. Money has good use if controlled by the Lord. Riches or poverty in themselves are no proof or disproof of God’s approval---faith and obedience are!

Some may be gifted more with earthly abundance, but they will give account for the use of it, the same as you and I will give account for our gifts and ministries. Do not let jealousy, envy and comparison lead you into complaint and discontentment with your lot. Yes, we sometimes think the grass is much greener on the other side, yet remember their water bills may cost more! If we learn true contentment with our present lot in life, God is able to change it as He sees fit. If He does not, it will not matter to us for we will have accepted His lot. Read this verse:

“The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot” (Psalm 16:5 KJV).

God’s blessings are to bring joy and contentment to us and others. Do not covet and desire another’s gifts and callings. Be faithful to your own, remembering we all shall answer for what He has given us. The children of Israel longed for meat when God was disciplining them with manna. He finally gave them what they lusted and complained for and yet sent a wasting disease with it---He added sorrow with it. To covet or desire what God has not approved is deadly to our spiritual walk. To accept and be thankful for what He has given will bring blessings from Him. It is all the attitude of the heart and mind, is it not?