

Two kinds of prosperity, of fools and of the wise, which is mine?

God cautions us His children to not set our hearts on things, but to trust in His goodness.

Heb 13:5 **Let your conduct be without coveting things** (for it is idolatry – Col 3:5); **be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."** (If only we would dare to believe this, then act like it.)

1 Tim 6:10 **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness** (their thoughts are from Satan and not from God – Jer 29:11 NIV), **and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

Prov 10:22 **The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.**

God really will abundantly provide for His children who have clean hands and pure hearts

Gen 22:14 **Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it will be provided."** (The Mount?)

Heb 12:22-23 **You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...the...church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven...to the spirits of righteous people...**(who ascends to this spiritual place?)

Ps 24:3-5 **Who may ascend into the mountain of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? Those who have clean (spiritual) hands (that haven't touched false teachings) and a pure heart (that trusts and obeys God), **Who have not lifted up their souls to an idol** (like money), **Nor lied. They will be blessed...****

Christ's sheep have no wants or lack, because they hear and follow Him in everything

Ps 23:1 **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.** (Who in fact are Christ's sheep?)

John 10:27 **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.** (A key:)

2 Cor 9:7 **So let each one give as they purpose in their heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver** (and the result of this will be:) **And**

8 **God is able to make all grace** (His word, Himself) **abound toward you, that you, always have all that you need, and more than enough for every good work.**

God's material provision for His children largely comes through others, and often sinners:

Prov 13:22 **...The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the righteous** (who live by faith).

Acts 20:34 **You know that these hands** (mine or others) **have provided for my needs;**

The question arises, will material provision by the ungodly in support of the godly count in any way in their favor with God? Is it a valid substitute for them to personally know God?

Eph 2:8-9 **For by grace you are being saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works (like, giving money) lest anyone boast.**
KJV

Isa 55:7 **Let the wicked forsake their way, And the unrighteous person their thoughts; Let them return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on them...**

God says riches deceive, and those who have them didn't necessarily get them from God

Mark 4:19 (Jesus)...**The deceitfulness of riches...entering in (to our hearts) chokes the word (that God sowed) and they become unfruitful (yet our purpose is to bear fruit)**

Prov 1:32-33 **The turning away (from God) of the (spiritually) ignorant will kill them (to God), And the prosperity of fools will destroy them; But whoever listens to Me (as one of My sheep) **will live safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.****

The devil will prosper some if it keeps them from God and if it makes Christians envious:

Ps 73:3 **I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.** KJV

6 **Therefore pride (their dependency on self and not God) serves as their necklace;**

For many, especially men, financial independence is a life goal, associated with manhood

Prov 23:4 **Be wise (and fear free) enough not to wear yourself out trying to get rich.**

TEV 5 **Your money can be gone in a flash, as if it had grown wings and flown away...**
(If Jesus isn't your owner the devil can steal it by sickness, accident, investments).

1 Tim 6:5 **...Those destitute of the truth, suppose that (financial) gain is godliness. But godliness (living in submission to God) **with contentment is great gain.**** KJV

6 **Having food and clothing let us be content with that** (we men especially resist this, for to accept God as my provider and not me, can challenge my whole identity).

9 **Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and...the trap of many foolish and harmful desires, which pull them down to ruin and destruction.** TEV

The authentic Christian has come to know God and love Him as their blessed all provider

2 Cor 3:5 **Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God** (will we let God change our thinking?).

Mat 6:33 **But seek first (to be in) the kingdom of God (and led by His spirit – Rom14:17) and (to have) His righteousness (which is by faith – Phil 3:9), and all these things (the practical things of life) will be added to you (by God, through people).**

Mat 6:31-32 **So don't worry...your heavenly Father knows that you need these things.**