

Treasures
Proverbs 10:2-3
December 13, 2015

Introduction

I have often been asked to give a witness training workshop. Usually in that workshop, there are tools that we can use to witness to others. I usually do not participate in those workshops because there is sufficient information in Scripture that I can use to witness to people. Today's sermon is a prime example of an approach we can use with people when sharing the gospel. Here in **Proverbs 10:2-3**, we have the subject of treasures and destinations.

Before we get into that, we need to look at what Jesus said during His Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 6:19-21 *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

This is the rock upon which many shipwreck to all eternity. People lay up treasures on earth and forget to lay up treasures in heaven. What are these treasures? They are anything that our heart loves best either things of earth or things of heaven. Life or death depends on what we love. If our treasures are earthly, then our heart is earthly also, and our destination is a place where we will be forever separated from God.

When we share the gospel with others, we need to help them understand what is in their heart. We need to remind them that Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters. We cannot store up treasures on earth and in heaven at the same time. How do we tell them this? Solomon gives us an answer.

I. Treasures of the Wicked (2a, 3b)

Proverbs 10:2a, 3b

2a Treasures of wickedness profit nothing,
3b but He casts away the desire of the wicked.

- Wicked's treasures
 - Wickedness and wicked
 - Does not always mean: obviously bad
 - Wickedness is anything opposed to God, His character, and His command

Genesis 39:7-9 *And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." 8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. 9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"*

1 Samuel 12:12, 17 *And when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the Lord your God was your king. 17 Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the Lord, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your*

wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking a king for yourselves."

1 John 5:19 *We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

- Can be outright hostile to God
- Inward indifference to God
- Hypocrisy
- Treasures
 - Trusting and accumulating anything that the heart desires
- Treasures are fleeting
 - Does not mean that the wicked cannot produce wealth
 - Whatever treasures they produce is only temporary
 - They can produce
 - Power and influence

Proverbs 22:7 *The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*

- Friends

Proverbs 19:4 *Wealth makes many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend.*

- False security and safety

Proverbs 18:11 *The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his own esteem.*

- What those treasures **cannot** produce?
 - Spiritual good (or peace with God)
 - Pardon

Proverbs 11:4 *Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.*

- Hope

Proverbs 11:19 *As righteousness leads to life, so he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.*

Proverbs 11:7 *When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, and the hope of the unjust perishes.*

Proverbs 24:20 *For there will be no prospect for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.*

- Desires gone
 - Sin is fleeting and temporary

Hebrews 11:25 *choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin*

- Treasures of this world does not give complete joy or satisfaction
- Apart from God, their desires will never be fulfilled (in fact, God takes them away)
- Today everyone enjoys common grace; however, for eternity the wicked will be under His wrath

II. Treasures of the Righteous (2b, 3a)

Proverbs 10:2b, 3a

2b but righteousness delivers from death.

3a The Lord will not allow the righteous soul to famish

- Righteous' treasures
 - Righteous = those who fear God
 - Who are righteous?

Proverbs 20:9 *Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?*

- Those who believe God and fear Him
- Through faith

Genesis 15:6 *And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

- Only by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone can we be saved
- Treasures are what?
 - Being delivered from death

Proverbs 11:4 *Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.*

Proverbs 11:19 *As righteousness leads to life, so he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.*

- Eternal life and all that it implies
 - Desire fellowship with God (which He will never allow us to starve)
- Treasures fulfilled

Proverbs 10:16 *The labor of the righteous leads to life, the wages of the wicked to sin.*

- Whose labors are turned to life?
 - Our righteousness?
 - No one—there is no one righteous
 - Only One who is righteous—Christ Jesus
 - Our life and treasures are found in Christ alone
- Not allow righteous soul to famish
 - Is this an absolute statement?
 - Not quite
 - This is a general rule of thumb related to physical life (cf **Matthew 6:25-34**)

- Solomon is not talking about physical food

Deuteronomy 8:3 *So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.*

- Desires of the righteous person is on the Word of God
 - Example: Mary and Zechariah (John the Baptist's father)
- Those who fear God desires to be righteous

Matthew 5:6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*

Coram Deo

What is Solomon talking about here? First, remember the framework of Proverbs is the fear of YHWH. For the wicked, he does not fear God. In his life, he has no place for God, so he pursues the treasures of this world to fulfill his desires. The problem is that the treasures of this world are only temporary and not lasting. The wicked's satisfaction is only fleeting. As long as he continues to ignore God, that is all he has, nothing. At the end, there is nothing but death for the wicked. He is living on borrowed time.

However, for the righteous, he fears God. He submits himself to God's will. He depends on God. He places his faith in Christ alone. As a result, he will be blessed. His hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled. He shall be satisfied. In the end, the righteous shall live eternally, and that life to come is infinitely better than this present life.

This is the gospel that we present to people. For those who pursue everything this world has to offer are heading to hell and they shall never be satisfied. However, there is hope found in Christ Jesus and He fulfills our every desire. He gives us life.

Solomon sums this succinctly:

Ecclesiastes 8:12-13 *Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. 13 But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God.*