



# CAPITOL COMMISSION

## Wealth That Endures (Proverbs 13:7)

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### *Wealth is more than money!*

#### *Challenging class discussion questions:*

*What would you have left if you lost all you own?*

*How much of your wealth will outlive you?*

*What would you sacrifice for more income?*

### INTRODUCTION

I worked 60-hour weeks during the years when we had young children in the home. Dad's family involvement was exchanged for a larger paycheck. In a related example, Kansans got the lottery, casinos, and track-side betting. Greater revenue was exchanged for a variety of social ills which impact individuals, families, law enforcement, and the courts.

We seem to need a definition of true wealth. A commonly used synonym is "prosperity." Wealth includes purchasing power in the form of money, possessions, productivity, and related resources.<sup>1</sup> True wealth also includes the blessings of family, friends, internal peace, and assurance of eternal life in heaven.<sup>2</sup>

### GAINING TRUE WEALTH

***Psalm 112:1-9 How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands. Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. They themselves will be wealthy, and their good deeds will last forever. Light shines in the darkness for the godly. They are generous, compassionate, and righteous. Good comes to those who lend money generously and conduct their business fairly. Such people will not be overcome by evil. Those who are righteous will be long remembered.***

***They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. They will have influence and honor.***<sup>3</sup>

The Scriptures make it clear that God blesses those that are in His family and obey His directives. This would certainly be no less true for the children in your household! My Uncle Alvoy served as assistant police chief in a relatively small city. His children were confident and fearless and able to face any foes triumphantly. How much more are you able to trust in the protection of our Heavenly Father?

### WISDOM IN HANDLING RESOURCES

Solomon shares many tips for dealing with money and other resources. He states that income from an inheritance or other quick gain can be lost just as quickly. Time is the best multiplier of wealth. ***"Money that comes easily disappears quickly, but money that is gathered little by little will grow"*** (Proverbs 13:11). Often it is how money is spent that determines our wealth. ***"The earnings of the godly enhance their lives, but evil people squander their money on sin"*** (Proverbs 10:16). Focusing on the short term brings a high cost to our character. ***"Evil people get rich for the moment, but the reward of the godly will last"*** (Proverbs 11:18). Solomon shows us a sharp contrast between wealth and character. ***"A gracious woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth"*** (Proverbs 11:16). Boaz said to Ruth "...for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman" (Ruth 3:11). How are you becoming known in your extended family and community?

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#### BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERS/LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS 7-7:50 AM, CAPITOL - ROOM 142 SOUTH

STAFF & GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS 12:05 - 12:55 PM, CAPITOL - ROOM 144 S (ROOM ASSIGNMENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

# Kansas

## Wealth That Endures

### LIVING WEALTHY

***Ecclesiastes 6:1-2 There is another serious tragedy I have seen under the sun, and it weighs heavily on humanity. God gives some people great wealth and honor and everything they could ever want, but then he doesn't give them the chance to enjoy these things. They die, and someone else, even a stranger, ends up enjoying their wealth! This is meaningless – a sickening tragedy.<sup>4</sup>***

Rather than contemplate the above riddle, we are better served by seeing that wealth is dynamic. Solomon advises us to live a full life and accept that God is in charge of the length of our days. ***“I have seen what is best for people here on earth. They should eat and drink and enjoy their work, because the life God has given them on earth is short. God gives some people the ability to enjoy the wealth and property he gives them, as well as the ability to accept their state in life and enjoy their work. They do not worry about how short life is, because God keeps them busy with what they love to do”*** (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20).

What are you engaged in activities that are fulfilling?

My friend Kathy exemplifies Solomon's advice in a contemporary setting. She retired early to focus on service to her community and her church. This includes serving on boards, chairing committees, and volunteering on projects, political campaigns, and education programs. Kathy is learning to schedule the most rigorous activities around her chemo treatments. She works a part-time job to enable her to support the ministries that are dear to her life mission. You may spot Kathy dining out on the weekend. Look for a smiling lady, wearing a stylish cap, with her wheelchair being pushed by a very supportive husband.

### ETERNITY IN FOCUS

***1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.<sup>5</sup>***

The Apostle Paul warns Timothy and his countless readers that eternity is much longer than our time on earth. Jesus tells us of the importance of our time of testing during this present life. ***“If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches”*** (Luke 16:11)? Which of your current activities are such that they are adding to your eternal account?

### CONCLUSION

We conclude with the words of Jesus. ***“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal”*** (Matthew 6:19-20). Jesus has the last word. ***“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world”*** (Matthew 25:34-35a).

<sup>1</sup> Noah Webster. American Dictionary of the English Language. (Webster).

<sup>2</sup> Burkett/Blue. Wealth to Last. (Broadman & Holman Publishers). P45.

<sup>3</sup> The Holy Bible. New Living Translation. (Tyndale House). 2004

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> The Holy Bible. New King James version. (Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.