

SCCC – PROSPERITY WITH WISDOM

S- Scriptures

“People who have wealth but lack understanding are like the beasts that perish.” Psalm 49: 20

C – Consideration

The Psalmist concluded his teaching regarding wealth with the above statement. He was a Levite, and he called not just the Jews, but all nations to hear his counseling. He compared those who trust and boast in their wealth with animals. He didn't condemn a rich and prosperous person, but he condemned them when they lacked understanding. He made statements about them, “Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever, Their dwelling places to all generations; They call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man, though in honor, does not remain; He is like the beasts that perish. For all can see that the wise die, that the foolish and the senseless also perish, leaving their wealth to others. This is the fate of those who trust in themselves, and of their followers, who approve their sayings. They are like sheep and are destined to die; death will be their shepherd (but the upright will prevail over them in the morning). Their forms will decay in the grave, far from their princely mansions.” Then, he spoke to those who were opened to hear God's words the following counsel, “Do not be afraid when one becomes rich, When the glory of his house is increased; For when he dies he shall carry nothing away; His glory shall not descend after him. Though while he lives he blesses himself. (For men will praise you when you do well for yourself).” And he reminded himself and all who trust in the Lord, not in their riches, “But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead; he will surely take me to himself.”

C – Commitment

The Scriptures always reminds God's people not to fall in love with money. Greed is the only sin in the Bible that is compared to idolatry. Paul spoke to Timothy to guard his heart against this danger, telling him to be grateful with whatever the Lord had supplied and, like the Psalmist he reminded the young pastor, with these words “For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” I think about Abraham. The Bible affirms that he was a very rich man, yet, he is called God's friend. He loved the Lord, Who made him wealthy. He was not a greedy idolater, but a humble worshipper. When requested to offer the most precious treasure he had, his son Isaac, in obedience he was ready to sacrifice him to God. The Lord spared his son and ended up sending His Son Jesus Christ to redeem Jews and gentiles from hell.

C – Call

My Heavenly Father, Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. I must keep this truth in my heart, for this is the greatest treasure I can have. Meditating on Your word will give me understanding and knowledge, so I will not allow my wallet, my savings, my house, or any other thing to be a god in my heart. Lord, deliver me when I would be tempted to envy

others, and help me to pursue what pleases You, such as generosity, humility, love, self-control, and every other fruit of the Spirit. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen!