

My, How Wealth Flies!

Proverbs 23:4, 5

Charlie Brackett

Please listen as we read Proverbs 23:4, 5:

Do not weary yourself to find wealth,
Cease from your consideration of it.
When you set your eyes on it, it is gone.
For wealth certainly makes itself wings,
Like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.

Most of us have never had great wealth though, perhaps, we have longed for it, even worked to get it. The man who wrote these words had immense wealth and so, together through his experience and our own, we can appreciate the truthfulness and the wisdom of these words.

Wealth is flighty. I can vouch for that without Solomon's experience! I no sooner have a little and it disappears. But, I must confess that I have thought, "If I could only get some money ahead, it wouldn't be so hard to make more. Maybe there is some truth in the old adage, "It takes money to make money" but Solomon with all of his wealth is here affirming to us that no matter how much you have, it is elusive and, once gotten, it has a way of disappearing.

The primary point of Solomon's words are to have us realize that wealth is not really worth the effort required to gain it and keep it. After many long years of labor and sacrifice in its accumulation, wealth has a way of being spent or lost or stolen in but a moment. Pluto, the mythological god of wealth, is said to come to one limping and with difficulty; but going away, is faster than all the birds of flight. Even if held on to for a lifetime, wealth cannot be taken with you. In only a moment at death, it flies from the grasp of the one who labored a lifetime to maintain it.

How much energy did you expend last year in the pursuit of the almighty dollar? Sure, the Bible teaches that we must work to provide for our own, but it also teaches to put the kingdom of God and His righteousness first and that He will provide the things we need to sustain life. The question is, "Where are our priorities?" I don't know about you, but I would like to end this year knowing that I had spent less energy in the pursuit of the flighty, transitory wealth of this world and more toward investment in treasures in heaven, which shall never fly away.