

**Friday, September 18, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"How much better to get wisdom than gold!  
To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver."**

*Proverbs 16: 16*

There are two categories mentioned in this verse: gold and silver ... wisdom and understanding. There are two ways to approach life: seek material things or seek what is of greater value.

The Proverb tells us that wisdom is better than gold and understanding is better than silver. Very often when an unwise person has a lot of money, his money does not last very long because he lacks wisdom. There seems to be no end to the money of the very rich and so the spending goes on and on. Money will not give us wisdom, but wisdom can help us to keep our money.

The Book of Proverbs is a very valuable Book of the Bible! It is filled with lessons about life. It is also a Book of the Bible that many of us spend little or no time reading. But if we do read it, we are likely to be blessed. Many of the Proverbs are difficult to interpret; others are a little clearer.

The Proverb we are considering for today seems to be one of the clearer ones. It's telling us not to be overly caught up in chasing after the wind. In other words, don't expend more energy on seeking those things that are fleeting, but rather on those things that are eternal. Jesus even said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

The Bible says, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." The word "beginning" means the "hub." It refers to the part that holds everything else together, like the hub of a bicycle wheel, from which the spokes extend. So, the verse we are considering might as well say, "How much better it is to get to know God rather than to become wealthy in worldly ways." It's simply about coming to know what matters the most in life and then investing in that very thing. That "thing" is our relationship with God. He loves us, and He offers us eternal life with Him in heaven.

The riches of this world will come to an end. But those who are rich toward God will have eternal life.

God's Peace!  
Pastor Jim