

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Prosperity**

"As many suffer from too much as too little." – Christian Nestell Bovee

"Put not your trust in prosperity." – Cladian, *In Rufinum*

"Prosperity is the touchstone of virtue; for it is less difficult to bear misfortunes than to remain uncorrupted by pleasure." – Tacitus

"To one who loves his country in all its parts, it is natural to rejoice in whatever contributes to the prosperity and honor and marks the stability and progress of any portion of its people." – Jefferson Davis

"The misfortune of the wise is better than the prosperity of the fool." – Epicurus

In defining *prosperity*, we are addressing the concept of prosperous, meaning, "a successful, flourishing, or thriving condition." Generally, man associates prosperity with material wealth, but it certainly is not limited to that circumstance.

For those who are Christians, those who are in Christ, who share in the 172 blessings that are in Christ, one can look at being prosperous in the sense that we have those spiritual blessings. We have the hope of eternal life (Titus 1:2; 3:7). We are rich and prosperous with salvation, redemption, and no condemnation. In fact, the prosperity of a Christian far outweighs the prosperity of the richest man in the world. Upon his demise, outside of Christ, he cannot take even a penny with him in death.

So which is better? So many assume it is the rich man in this life. Even the Lord's disciples were shocked that the rich were not better off than the poor spiritually. "When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, 'Who then can be saved?'" (Matt. 19:25). It is man's misunderstanding that has caused so many to value riches in this life. Which is better? Spiritual prosperity by far!

It is amazing how short-sighted man truly is. When one considers that he may enjoy life perhaps to 80 years (Psa. 90:10), or perhaps a little more. Then you gauge that next to the concept of eternity, and we can safely say, there is no comparison. It would be like putting a drop of water up next to an ocean.

So who truly is enjoying prosperity? With the spiritual and physical information put into consideration, it is the Christian who is truly prosperous. He or she may not possess great wealth or possessions, but if they are in Christ, and enjoy His spiritual blessings, they are far richer than even the richest men or women financially today.

Don't let the world fill you. The real prosperity is in Christ our Lord!