

**October 18, 2009**  
**"WEALTH AND POVERTY", *Daily Disciple*, page 300**



### **Psalm 25:13-14**

- <sup>13</sup> He will spend his days in prosperity,  
and his descendants will inherit the land.
- <sup>14</sup> The LORD confides in those who fear him;  
he makes his covenant known to them.

### **MEDITATION**

“Our Lord’s example was certainly given for our imitation. He could have commanded the wealth of the universe; but he became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. The foxes had holes, the birds of the air had nests, but the Son of Man had not where to lay his head. His example was a veto against covetousness, and a rich ministry. (Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger*, 1843, page 369).

### **SCRIPTURE**

<sup>6</sup> "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. <sup>7</sup> I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty. <sup>8</sup> 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty. <sup>9</sup> 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty."

(Haggai 2:6-9)

### **PRAYER**

“Lord of hosts, all in heaven and earth belongs to you! Lord Jesus, you gave up such wealth to become poor for my sake. May I generously give to others as you gave to me.”

## Digging Deeper: Finding out, discussion and sharing

1. Read all of Psalm 25 and answer the following questions:
  - a. How does this Psalm begin?
  - b. What would you say is the theme of this Psalm?
  - c. The word “prosperity” is literally in the Hebrew “goodness.” The ancient Israelite thought of material blessings in terms of God’s goodness.
  - d. Now go back through Psalm 25 and see if you can define the specifics of what is “goodness.”
  - e. What does “prosperity/goodness” coming from the Lord mean for us today?
  - f. Share ways in which your group has experienced the “prosperity/goodness” of God.
2. Barton W. Stone, in his meditation above, focuses on the dichotomy between material riches and spiritual blessings.
  - a. How do you distinguish between the two?
  - b. Think of Jesus’ life now as a life to imitate. Share some of his teachings on wealth and poverty. Which ones are the hardest for us today?
  - c. Is there any virtue in being rich?
  - d. Is there any virtue in being poor?
3. Haggai, like the other minor prophets of the Old Testament, constantly have to bring Israel back to her senses as a nation in terms of ethical living. Much of their unethical practices centered around mishandling of money and material things.
  - a. Israel must have been shocked to hear the convicting words of the prophet as he opens up his book. Read Haggai 1:1-6.
  - b. What seems to have been the problem here?
  - c. Can you see any application to the church today?
4. Haggai 1:10 is a troubling verse. Do you think God withholds physical blessings from us when we neglect Him and his word?
5. In Haggai 2:8 God makes a pronouncement to Israel because she as a collective people had forgotten their role as stewards of God’s world. What happens to a people when they forget that the silver and gold is really the Lord’s?
6. This topic of study today is really a hot topic and an emotional one.
  - a. How do you define “poverty?”
  - b. How do you define “wealth?”
  - c. How does a Christian respond to both or either one?
7. Can you formulate the Christian worldview with respect to the material world and the riches or poverty that it offers?
8. How does your small group view and respond to issues of poverty and wealth?