

Proverbs 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Analysis

Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, but righteousness delivers from death. Ill-gotten gain provides no lasting benefit - what's gained unrighteously cannot truly profit. In contrast, righteousness delivers from death - both temporal consequences and eternal judgment. This verse refutes pragmatic immorality, insisting that wrong means can never produce right ends. Only righteousness, ultimately found in Christ, saves from death.

Historical Context

Reflects wisdom literature's recurring theme that wickedness, however temporarily profitable, leads to death while righteousness leads to life. Ancient Israel saw this confirmed repeatedly in individuals' and nations' fates.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What 'treasures of wickedness' are you pursuing that ultimately profit nothing?

2. How does Christ's righteousness deliver you from death's power?

Interlinear Text

פָּאָתְּ יְלִילָה לֹא
H3808 profit H3276 Treasures H214 of wickedness H7562 nothing but righteousness H6666 delivereth H5337

מִתְּמוּתָה:
from death
H4194

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 11:4 (Righteousness): Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Proverbs 12:28 (Righteousness): In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

Proverbs 21:6 (Parallel theme): The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

Romans 5:21 (Righteousness): That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ezekiel 7:19 (Parallel theme): They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.

Zephaniah 1:18 (Parallel theme): Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

Romans 2:5 (Righteousness): But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

