

# Proverbs 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.

## Analysis

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Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure with trouble. This comparative proverb establishes priority of spiritual riches over material wealth. Contentment with godliness surpasses anxious abundance, showing true prosperity is measured by covenant relationship, not possessions.

## Historical Context

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Solomon's vast wealth made this testimony especially credible. Having experienced both extremes, he could authoritatively declare godliness with little superior to godlessness with much.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How content are you with little when accompanied by God's presence?

2. What troubles attend your pursuit of treasure that diminish your peace?

## Interlinear Text

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וְמַה וְמַה בְּבָרְאָת מֵעַט טָוב  
Better is little with the fear of the LORD treasure than great and trouble

H2896

H4592

H3374

H3068

H214

H7227

H4103

בָּרְאָת

H0

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 16:8** (Parallel theme): Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

**Psalms 37:16** (Parallel theme): A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

**1 Timothy 6:6** (Parallel theme): But godliness with contentment is great gain.

**Proverbs 28:6** (Parallel theme): Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

**Proverbs 10:22** (References Lord): The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

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