

— Hebrews 13.5-6 —
Kingdom Series 28 – Nov 11, 2018

God and Prosperity

Heb 13.5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

* **By invoking** the promise of vs 5, Paul is putting us in the place of Israel after the _____, indicating that the lessons we need are the ones they learned in the _____.

* **Israel wasn't** ready for freedom and prosperity until they stated to think like _____ and _____ of God.

* **Eight things** maturity means (among others):

1. Maturity means understanding and embracing that God is training us up as sons and daughters.

Deut 8.5 "[K]now in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son" (see Heb 12.7).

Rom 8.28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son ...

Heb 2.10 For it was fitting for Him ... in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

Mat 6.9 [P]ray: Our Father in heaven ... , Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Mat 5.44 [L]ove your enemies ... 45 that you may be sons of your Father ... for He makes His sun rise on the evil and the good ...

Mat 6.32 [Y]our heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God ...

2. Maturity means understanding and embracing that God's _____ is authoritative, intended for our _____, and take precedence over our material comforts.

Deut 10.12 "Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?"

Deut 8.2 "You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD" (quoted by Jesus in Mat 4.4).

John 4.34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

3. Maturity means understanding and embracing that every good thing, including riches and material comforts, are the _____ of God, whether he gives them to us directly by miraculous provision, or indirectly by blessing us in our work and enabling us to build _____.

James 1.17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights ...

3. Maturity means understanding and embracing the power to build wealth, while remaining _____ to God throughout.

Deut 8:11 "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments ..., 12 lest when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied ... 17 then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' 18 And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant ...

5. Maturity means understanding and embracing the need for _____ property. The entire creation belongs to _____, it is a sole proprietorship, and he has created us to be like him. So he makes us his _____. We don't own things absolutely, as God does, but we do have exclusive _____ of various things in relation to one another. That's what we mean by private property.

Exo 20.15 You shall not steal ... 17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house ... wife ... servant ... ox ... nor anything that is your neighbor's.

Prov 22.28 Do not move the ancient boundary which your fathers have set.

1Kings 4:25 So Judah and Israel lived in safety, every man under his vine and his fig tree ... all the days of Solomon.

Micah 4.1 *And it will come about in the last days ... 2 Many nations will ... say, "Come and let us go up ... the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." ... 3 ... Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares ... 4 Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree. With no one to make them afraid ...*

Zechariah 3.8 *"[B]ehold, I am going to bring in My servant the Branch ... 9 ... and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. 10 In that day, ... every one of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree."*

6. Maturity means understanding and embracing the need for a society where we have the opportunity to _____ and to _____, and therefore we look to _____ for our daily bread.

Mat 6.11 *"Give us this day our daily bread."*

A society where the gov. presides to ensure equality of _____ within a certain range is a society in which we are not allowed to _____ as God intends.

7. Maturity means understanding and embracing private _____ and the blessings it brings. Gov _____ greatly erode opportunity for private charity, as well as the blessings it brings, namely _____ and _____ in both the recipient and the giver.

Prov 19.17 *One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.*

1Tim 5.16 *If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.*

2Cor 9.5 *Therefore I thought it necessary to ... prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.*

6 *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Mat 6.2 *Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do ... that they may have glory from men ... 3 But ... do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

8. Maturity means _____ in God, which is what contentment really is. It precludes comparing yourself to others, coveting what they have, and resenting them for it.

Psalm 37.1 *Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers ... 3 Trust in the LORD and do good ... 4 Delight yourself in the LORD ... 5 Commit your way to the LORD ... 7 Rest in the LORD ... 9 For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land ... 11 The humble will inherit the land and will delight themselves in the abundance of prosperity (quoted in Mat 5.5: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth").*

God devotes _____% of the ten commandments to forbidding being worked up over what others have and you don't. That's _____% of loving your neighbor as yourself. And how much idolatry stems from failures in this area? The belief that any amount of prosperity can truly _____ us is both false and _____.

Psalm 107.8 *Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! 9 For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness.*

Ecc 3.11 *... He has put eternity in their hearts ...*

The whole of Ecclesiastes is Solomon's testimony that ...

Never has there been so much material prosperity, and yet never has there been a people so _____ and _____.

Collectivist economic models are variations on the theme that a gov controlled society and economy are necessary to ensure _____, which is measured as equality of _____. Not only are these models materialistic and therefore idolatrous, they are also predicated on _____, _____, and _____. They affirm the fundamental premise of envy and coveting, which is that difference equals _____.