

**End-Time Prep Series
True Prosperity
Sermon Bible Notes by Pastor Cary Rodgers**

There are many “preachers” on TV that preach the gospel of prosperity. They believe that a person is only blessed by God if they received an abundance of money, luxury, mansions, fancy expensive cars, diamonds and jewelry.

Kenneth Copeland one of the world’s wealthiest televangelists has a net worth of over 700 million dollars! His estate has its own airport for his multi-million dollar private jets to take off and land. T.D. Jakes is one of the second wealthiest televangelists worth \$150 million. Many prosperity preachers focus on a gospel of grace and “favor.” Many are supported by thousands of donors in which many are not wealthy. Is this what Bible prosperity promotes?

Is prosperity about having the big mansions, fancy cars, a lot of money, fashionable clothes, jewelry, diamonds? Is God’s prosperity about having stuff to show off to other people?

What does the Bible say about true prosperity?

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest **prosper** and be in **health**, even as thy soul **prospereth**.

Notice in this text that prosperity is focused on the soul that “prospereth.” The context of prosperity here is focused on the spirituality of an individual not his physical net worth.

Prosper (Greek): euodoō [yoo-od-o'-o] Comes from a compound word good + road = to *help on the road; succeed in reaching*; In other words: Successful journey!

True Bible prosperity is about the spiritual journey and not the hoarding and accumulation of massive wealth.

The rich young ruler refused to sell all his wealth, give to the poor and follow Jesus. He went away sad from Jesus because he thought that prosperity was about the accumulation of luxury and stuff. Jesus was offering to the rich young ruler true prosperity, which is a successful spiritual journey as long as he followed Jesus.

Remember again, true Bible prosperity is about the spiritual journey and destination! Worldly “prosperity” is not true prosperity. The world’s “prosperity” is about the “lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and pride of life.”

Massive worldly wealth is not a measure of a person’s spirituality, growth, or favor with God. There are many millionaires and billionaires who are bankrupt spirituality like the rich young ruler. They are on the wrong road that leads to eternal death.

What does Jesus say about the spiritual journey of true prosperity vs. fake prosperity?

Matthew 7:13-14

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

The strait gate and the narrow way is a prosperous journey to the Heavenly kingdom. The broad way is an unsuccessful journey to total destruction.

What are the Biblical principles of true prosperity?

1st principle - Don't listen to the counsel of those who are not on the spiritual and heavenly road of prosperity.

2nd principle - Delight in the law of God and mediate on His Law day and night.

Psalm 1:1 - 6

1 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful (scoffers/mockers).

2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4 The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

The Word of God is our road map that gives us clear directions on the true road of prosperity to the Heavenly kingdom. It is our true GPS, God's Positioning System.

3rd principle – True prosperity is obedience to God's law

Joshua 1:7, 8

7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

God is not interested in, nor impressed about, your net worth. He only has interest in your spiritual great faith in Jesus Christ and His Everlasting Covenant.

How should you express your love and devotion to Jesus, the one who cleansed you from sin?

John 14:15, 21

15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

21 *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

1 John 2:3, 4

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 5:2, 3

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

John 10:10

10 **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

Remember----Delighting, mediating, and obedience to God commandments will give you a successful journey to the Heavenly kingdom. And while you are on this journey God will give you a more abundant life. It does not mean that trouble nor trials will come your way, but by faith through Christ you will be able to stand and move forward.

Psalm 112:1 - 3

1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed *is* the man *that* feareth the LORD, *that* delighteth greatly in his commandments.

2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches *shall be* in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

When you are connected with the King of kings, his wealth, riches and his righteousness are yours!

True prosperity and more abundant living can ONLY come through obedience to ALL of God's Commandments.

Think about it.....

If you are traveling in your car out of state to a relative's house, a successful journey is dependent on your obedience to the laws of the road. If you excessively speed, run red lights, blow through stop signs, and drive recklessly while on your road trip, will you make it there successfully? NO! **You will NOT make it!**

Are you called a legalist for following the laws of bondage if you keep the laws of the road? NO!

The laws of the road are designed to protect you and others. The same is true for God's Commandments. We will have a successful, prosperous trip to Heaven through Christ by obeying the Commandments of God!

What are the blessings for those who are on the prosperous, more abundant journey because they obey the commandments of God?

Psalm 103:18 - 22

- 18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.
 19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.
 20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.
 21 Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.
 22 Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

There it is! A successful journey to the Heavenly kingdom requires God's people to be obedient to ALL of God's Ten Commandments.

Let's learn more about the prosperity of obedience from the messages that God gave to the children of Israel

What did Israel's prosperity depend on?

Deuteronomy 4:1, 2, 6, 9

- 1 Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do *them*, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.
 2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
 6 Keep therefore and do *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.
 9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Not only were they to keep ALL the Commandments of God for their success, but to teach them to their children.

Let's read more about the prosperity of obedience!

Leviticus 26:1 - 12

- 1 Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up *any* image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I *am* the LORD your God.
 2 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I *am* the LORD.
 3 If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;
 4 Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.
 5 And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.
 6 And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make *you* afraid: and I will

rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.

7 And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.

8 And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

9 For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.

10 And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new.

11 And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you.

12 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

Deuteronomy 28: 1- 9

1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

3 Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.

4 Blessed *shall be* the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

5 Blessed *shall be* thy basket and thy store.

6 Blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou comest in, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou goest out.

7 The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

8 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

9 The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

Deuteronomy 29:9 Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do.

What was Israel's warning and our warning about rejecting and not keeping God's Commandments?

Deuteronomy 8:10 - 20

10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

11 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

12 Lest *when* thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt *therein*;

13 And *when* thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, *wherein were* fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where *there was* no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of *mine* hand hath gotten me this wealth.

- 18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day.
- 19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.
- 20 As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

Main lesson – The results of rejecting and not obeying the Commandments of God

- 1) Forget the true God of Heaven and substitute with a false god (or a false view of God)
- 2) Prideful
- 3) Walk after the World
- 4) Sure death

True prosperity is obedience to God's Commandments.

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