

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

## (#153) The Proverbs of Solomon 21:5- Hurry Up And Lose

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

### **Proverbs 21:5:**

The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

Work, hard work, and plenty of it is the only way to true wealth. Though God could have created "the heavens and the earth" instantaneously, He used 6 days to establish a work ethic for humankind (**Genesis 1:1-2:3**). His example established the principle of daily work, which He commanded in the Law of Moses:

"Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed."  
(**Exodus 23:12**)

In the Law of Christ:

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (**1 Corinthians 15:58**)

"Steadfast" and "immovable" are the characteristics of "steady" and "sure." The Apostle Paul obeyed God's work ethic to support his preaching of the Gospel:

For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. (**1 Thessalonians 2:9**)

Other proverbs emphasize this principle:

- Do you see a man *who* excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men. (**Proverbs 22:29**)
- Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, *and* attend to your herds; For riches are not forever, nor does a crown *endure* to all generations. *When* the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, and the herbs of the

***All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.***



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mountains are gathered in, the lambs *will provide* your clothing, and the goats the price of a field; *You shall have* enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household, and the nourishment of your maidservants.  
([Proverbs 27:23-27](#))

- An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning Will not be blessed at the end.  
([Proverbs 20:21](#))

The other side of this is found in the common phrase, "haste makes waste." ALL shortcuts, fast tracks, or quick remedies will fail. There is no gambling game, lottery, raffle, pool, sweepstake, betting, or bookmaking that substitutes for diligent, daily, hard work, either in personal satisfaction or security.

Second generation fortunes seldom survive; most lottery winners squander their monies; those on an unearned government dole can lose it on a whim; gamblers are generally just contributing their bets to someone else's jackpot! No one has ever thought of a scheme that betters God's principle of satisfying work! Solomon will later say:

The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eats little or much; but the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.  
([Ecclesiastes 5:12](#))

He then explains:

Here is what I have seen: *It is* good and fitting *for one* to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage. As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor-this *is* the gift of God. For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps *him* busy with the joy of his heart. ([Ecclesiastes 5:18-20](#))

Keeping busy is the work of God that He rewards, but hastening to be rich will fail. Do you want to hurry up and lose?

