

Lesson 132 - The Effect of Poverty

1. While the Church of Smyrna suffered poverty and tribulation, how were they also rich? **Revelation 2:9**

EGW: (no comment)

2. What type of poverty did Jesus experience? **2 Corinthians 8:9**

EGW: Never was there such an evangelist as Christ. He was the Majesty of heaven, but He humbled Himself to take our nature that He might meet men where they were. To all people, rich and poor, free and bond, Christ, the Messenger of the Covenant, brought the tidings of salvation. How the people flocked to Him! From far and near they came for healing, and He healed them all. His fame as the Great Healer spread throughout Palestine, from Jerusalem to Syria. The sick came to the places through which they thought He would pass, that they might call on Him for help, and He healed them of their diseases. Hither, too, came the rich, anxious to hear His words and to receive a touch of His hand. Thus He went from city to city, from town to town, preaching the gospel and healing the sick--the King of glory in the lowly garb of humanity. "Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye, through His poverty might be rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9. {CH 318.2}

3. What do the poor have? **Proverbs 13:7**

EGW: (no comment)

4. Despite physical poverty of the Corinthians, what did they experience an abundance of? **First half of 2 Corinthians 8:2**

EGW: When, on account of their faith, the Christians at Jerusalem were reduced to poverty, other churches showed their liberality by supplying the wants of those brethren. Though the Macedonian churches were in great affliction, yet the apostle Paul declares that "the abundance of their joy, and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality." {RH, January 4, 1881 par. 9}

5. Despite physical poverty of the Corinthians, what did they abound unto still? **Second half of 2 Corinthians 8:2**

EGW: Nearly all the Macedonian believers were poor in this world's goods, but their hearts were overflowing with love for God and His truth, and they gladly gave for the support of the gospel. When general collections were taken up in the Gentile churches for the relief of the Jewish believers, the liberality of the converts in Macedonia was held up as an example to other churches. Writing to the Corinthian believers, the apostle called their attention to "the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; how that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, . . . yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints." 2 Corinthians 8:1-4. {AA 343.1}

6. What can physical poverty cause? **Proverbs 19:4**

EGW: (no comment)

7. Those that focus upon their physical poverty and cannot see the workings of God, what shall be offered to them? **Beginning of Proverbs 31:7**

EGW: (no comment)

8. What do such people constantly remember? **End of Proverbs 31:7**

EGW: (no comment)

9. What can physical poverty lead people to do against their neighbor? **Proverbs 30:8-9 [Answer in verse 9 and is against the eighth commandment.]**

EGW: (no comment)

10. What can physical poverty lead people to do against God? **Proverbs 30:8-9 [Answer in verse 9 and is against the third commandment.]**

EGW: (no comment)

11. What two things may contribute to poverty? **Beginning of Proverbs 28:22**

EGW: (no comment)

12. What type of people do those in poverty tend to follow after? **Proverbs 28:19**

EGW: (no comment)

13. What personal activity contributes to poverty? **Proverbs 24:33-34, Proverbs 6:9-11**

EGW: You should have regular hours for rising, for praying, and for eating. Many waste hours of precious time in bed because it gratifies the natural inclination and to do otherwise requires an exertion. One hour wasted in the morning is lost never to be recovered. Says the wise man: "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: so shall thy poverty come as one that traveleth; and thy want as an armed man." {5T 181.3}

14. What do we need to do instead to try to avoid poverty? **Second half of Proverbs 20:13**

EGW: (no comment)

15. What indulgence can bring on poverty? **Proverbs 23:20-21**

EGW: "The drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags." ... {AH 391.5}

How many a man might have escaped financial failure and ruin by heeding the warnings so often repeated and emphasized in the Scriptures: {AH 391.6}

16. What item refused can bring on poverty? **Proverbs 13:18**

EGW: (no comment)

17. What can tend to poverty? **Second half of Proverbs 11:24**

EGW: But few have a true sense of what is comprised in the word Christian. It is to be Christlike, to do others good, to be divested of all selfishness, and to have our lives marked with acts of disinterested benevolence. Our Redeemer throws souls into the arms of the church, for them to care for unselfishly and train for heaven, and thus be co-workers with Him. But the church too often thrusts them away, upon the devil's battlefield. One member will say, "It is not my duty," and then bring up some trifling excuse. "Well," says another, "neither is it my duty;" and finally it is nobody's duty, and the soul is left uncared for to perish. It is the duty of every Christian to engage in this self-denying, self-sacrificing enterprise. Cannot God return into their granaries and increase their flocks, so that instead of loss there shall be increase? "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." {2T 331.1}

18. Therefore, what ought we to do? **First half of Proverbs 11:24**

EGW: God declares, "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters." Isaiah 32:20. A continual imparting of God's gifts wherever the cause of God or the needs of humanity demand our aid, does not tend to poverty. "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is

meet, but it tendeth to poverty." Proverbs 11:24. The sower multiplies his seed by casting it away. So it is with those who are faithful in distributing God's gifts. By imparting they increase their blessings. "Give, and it shall be given unto you," God has promised; "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom." Luke 6:38. {AA 345.1}

19. What do people love that can cause a person to become poor? **Proverbs 21:17**

EGW: But Satan will bring to the mind many things to crowd out matters of eternal interest. It is his opportunity to confuse the right by mixing it up with the wrong. Through attendance at worldly gatherings a taste is created for exciting amusements, and moral power is weakened. Those who love pleasure may keep up a form of godliness, but they have no vital connection with God. Their faith is dead, their zeal has departed. They feel no burden to speak a word in season to souls who are out of Christ, and to urge them to give their hearts to the Lord.--Y. I., March 30, 1893. {PH048 18.1}

Proverbs 21:15, 17: It is joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.... He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich. {PH048 18.2}

20. What is poverty towards the poor? **Proverbs 10:15**

EGW: (no comment)

21. What does debt cause a person to be? **Second half of Proverbs 22:7**

EGW: (no comment)

22. Who rules over the poor? **First half of Proverbs 22:7**

EGW: (no comment)