Proverbs 16:16-18

**16. How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. 17. The highway of the upright turns aside from evil; whoever guards his way preserves his life. 18. Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.**

There are many scams in the world. Most, if not all, of the “get rich quick” schemes make big promises with little return. The same goes for most things that seem too good to be true. But wealth is something that is ingrained in most of us and the wanting wealth and the pursuit of it often leads to one’s destruction of self and/or family. There are many people who have lost everything because they just had to have a bit more. Gambling in this country preys on people like that and is a very lucrative business since it is completely legal especially in sports now. The bottom line of it all is getting more and like any addiction the more you get the more you want.

This proverb tells us what is better than gold or silver. Wisdom and understanding will take you a lot further in this life than gold and silver will. Most of our “wisdom” that we accumulate comes from a lifetime of mistakes that teach us these lessons. The bible tells us to seek wisdom but in our youth we seem to think we have all we need. Obviously since wisdom is said to come with age we were not as smart as we thought we once were. With increased wealth in this world, it seems to come with more pride. Pride as we see in one of the most famous proverbs ever written comes before destruction and a haughty spirit before the fall. Most shorten it to say that pride comes before the fall, but in either case pride is something that no human needs help obtaining.

Verse 17 squeezed in between telling us to seek wisdom rather than wealth and watch our pride, is a proverb that tells us what to expect when we seek wisdom and to lead an upright life. We are able to turn aside evil. As Christians, we are told that all wisdom and goodness comes from above. We are instructed to first seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness and these things will be given to you (Matthew 6:33). This is not worldly things that are given to us but spiritual things that we need to survive in this place that is filled with sin and corruption that is ever growing.

Remember this week to always seek the Lord and to continue reading His words and praying to Christ for all you need.