

## What would you do with a Million pounds?

- Priorities!
  - give out the handout, and invite folk to fill how they would spend a million pounds
  - must spend it! Can't bank it...

## Introduction

- Trouble with Proverbs is that a lot of it is pithy comments, rather than an exhaustive treatment of a topic
  - the best we can manage is to look at a large selection of verses scattered through the book...
  - and try and tie that together with the fundamental underpinning we looked at last week: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline." (1:7)

## The Good

- Given for our good, enjoyment, there are practical benefits
- Contentment
- Provision - from God - a "sometimes, but often not yet"
  - (eg 13:22, we know this isn't always true!)
  - qnd yet... Brucefield story - tithe, promotion...
  - not prosperity gospel!!
- Wisdom - clear insight into way world really works!
  - some of what we have here are observations, rather than aspirations - eg Proverbs 14:20, top of second page
- Requiring of hard work, careful stewarding, discipline.

## The Bad

- Snare; tend to think can solve problems that way; temptation; ours or God's?
- Tempted to trust in something ultimately unreliable:
  - the angst and troubles so many "celebs" seem to go through!
- Never become complacent:
  - each stage in life brings new snares;
  - as a teenager we might have a little money, but no responsibilities; danger is that we develop a selfish attitude - only spending on ourselves.
  - get job, living at home - danger of selfish attitudes;
  - go away from home, student - danger of debt!
  - family - danger of looking for security, to provide, above generosity and gratitude, living in dependence on God;
- Pressure of the world's expectations:
  - eg number of TV's, computers, foreign trips, etc...
  - and guard against danger of offering to the Lord that which costs us nothing (cf 2 Samuel 24:24)

## The Summary

- Whose wealth is it?
  - ours, given to God?
  - or God's, lent to us?
  - compare: what kind of attitude do we generally have to stuff that has been leant to us, especially when we know it is valuable to the giver, and the giver is someone we love!
- *Wealth in itself is neither to be worshipped nor despised: 30:8 (last one)...*